

May 18, 1964

Msgr. Mathias Gorges



Msgr. Gorges was born April 10, 1903 at Colwich. He was ordained with six other priests on May 21, 1932, by Bishop Schwertner at St. Mary's Cathedral in Wichita. In addition to Msgr. Gorges, Wichita's largest ordination class included Fathers Edward Albers, Peter Kaub, Peter Stremel, John Wechensky, Arnold Weller and Philip White.

Msgr. Gorges served as pastor pro tem at Mary, Help of Christians, Loretto; St. Michael's, La Crosse, and St. James, Augusta, between the years 1932 and 1936.

His pastorates included: St. Martin, Piqua, (1936-48); St. Patrick's, Chanute, (1948-54), and Holy Name, Coffeyville, (1954-1964). He built the school auditorium at Coffeyville in 1955.

In addition to his pastoral assignments, he served the Wichita diocese as diocesan director of the Holy Name Society, and vicar forane in the Parsons and Coffeyville deaneries.

Pope John XXIII elevated him to the rank of monsignor, naming him a domestic prelate on Oct. 9, 1960.

Msgr. Gorges died suddenly May 18, 1964, three days before the 32nd anniversary of his ordination. He was 61.

Bishop Leo Byrne celebrated his funeral in Holy Name Church at Coffeyville on May 22, 1964. Burial was in Sacred Heart Cemetery in Colwich.

Msgr. Gorges had two siblings enter the religious life. Sister Mary Sylvia and Sister Mary Evelyn were members of the Sisters Adorers of the Most Precious Blood in Wichita.