

January 9, 1977

Msgr. Joseph Grellner



Msgr. Grellner was born Jan. 17, 1905, in Okarche, Okla., the son of John and Anna Bogner Grellner. He was ordained in St. Mary's Cathedral, Wichita, by Bishop August J. Schwertner on June 14, 1930.

After a temporary assignment at St. Joseph, Andale (1930), he was appointed assistant pastor of St. Teresa, Hutchinson (1931-35). In 1935 he became pastor of St. Joseph, Conway Springs, where he enlarged the church and built the first school.

On Jan. 30, 1946, Msgr. Grellner was appointed to Sacred Heart, Dodge City. He served this parish 20 years until his retirement in 1966. During his tenure, the entire city block was purchased, the parish school was doubled in size and a gymnasium-auditorium was added.

When the Diocese of Dodge City was established in 1951, Msgr. Grellner was named Vicar General and Chancellor of the diocese by Bishop Franz. He relinquished the post of chancellor in 1958, but remained vicar general until 1972, having been reappointed to that office by Bishop Forst in 1960. Msgr. Grellner served as diocesan administrator between the episcopacies of Bishop Franz and Bishop Forst.

He was named a papal chamberlain by Pope Pius XII in 1949 and promoted to domestic prelate in 1952. He was elevated to protonotary apostolic, the highest order of minor prelate, by Pope John XXIII in 1960.

Msgr. Grellner died on Jan. 9, 1977, at the age of 71, in his home in Dodge City. Bishop Gerber celebrated the funeral in Sacred Heart Cathedral Jan. 12. Msgr. Grellner was buried at Holy Trinity Cemetery in Okarche, Okla.