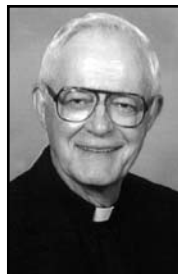


August 3, 2006

Father Gerald Hammeke



Father Gerald was born Dec. 29, 1927, in Clafin. He was ordained to the priesthood on May 3, 1952, at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, North Ellinwood. He was the first priest ordained for the Diocese of Dodge City, and the first priest ordained by Bishop John B. Franz.

He served as an assistant at St. Rose of Lima, Great Bend, and Sacred Heart Cathedral, Dodge City, before receiving his first pastorate.

His pastorates included: St. Patrick's, Plains (1956-62); St. Joseph, Offerle, with St. Mary's, Hodgeman County (1962-65); St. Bernard, Belpre (1965-68); Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dodge City (1968-74); St. John the Evangelist, Hoisington (1974-80); St. Patrick, Great Bend (1980-91); St. Stanislaus, Ingalls (1991); St. John the Baptist, Spearville; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Windthorst, (1991-97); later with St. Mary, Hodgeman County (1994-97).

In addition to his numerous pastoral and diocesan positions, Father Hammeke served as state co-chaplain for the Knights of Columbus (1980 and 1981).

He enjoyed all kinds of sports, especially softball, basketball, bowling, shooting pool, fishing and hunting.

Father Hammeke retired to his home in Great Bend in 1997. After he moved into the Dominican Convent in 2005, he celebrated Mass for the Sisters from his wheelchair.

He died in the infirmary at the Dominican Convent on Aug. 3, 2006 at the age of 78.

Bishop Gilmore celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial at St. Patrick Church, Great Bend. Burial was in Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery, North Ellinwood.