

February 6, 1951

Father Theophile Hard



Father Hard was born May 10, 1885 at Boscoil, Aargan, Switzerland. He was ordained for the Archdiocese of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada on April 8, 1916. After serving several years in Canada, he became ill and transferred to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and then transferred again to the Wichita diocese in 1928.

He served as temporary administrator at St. Catherine, Dubuque, when the pastor, Father John Faber, took a leave of absence for a year due to his health. In 1929, Father Hard was appointed pastor at Sacred Heart, Cordia, with the mission St. Michael, La Crosse. Due to a population shift, Father Hard was appointed first resident pastor at La Crosse with Cordia as a mission. He then served a third Rush County parish, Mary, Help of Christians at Loretto, from 1932 to 1937.

His remaining assignments were at parishes in the Wichita diocese: Immaculate Conception, Burns, with the mission Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Spring Branch; and St. Joseph, Humboldt. In 1950 he retired to Chanute. He died in his home there Feb. 6, 1951, at the age of 65.

Father Alex Stremel celebrated a requiem Mass at St. Joseph's Church, Humbolt. Father M.J. Gorges delivered the sermon. "For many years Father Hard was an energetic pastor who did not hesitate to undertake tasks because they were difficult. In recent months he had nothing to look forward to except the cross, and he resigned himself to the way of the cross." (AR Feb. 16, 1951)

Bishop Carroll celebrated the funeral Mass at St. Michael's Church in La Crosse. Burial was in the parish cemetery, located at the west end of La Crosse cemetery.