

**April 28, 1963**

**Father Francis Hayden**



Father Hayden was born Feb. 16, 1878, and was baptized by Father Paul Ponziglione, a Jesuit missionary stationed at Osage Mission (St. Paul). He studied for the priesthood at Redemptorist College, Kirkwood, Mo., and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained May 7, 1910, by Bishop Hennessy at St. Aloysius Pro-Cathedral, Wichita.

His first appointment was as assistant at St. Patrick's, Parsons. In 1911, he was assigned to the pro-cathedral.

He was appointed pastor at Mother of God, Oswego, with Sacred Heart, Chetopa, as a mission on May 1, 1912.

Father Hayden had two pastorates in the Dodge City diocese. He served at St. Francis Xavier, Seward, from 1913 to 1928. He built the church there that was dedicated on March 14, 1916. While at Seward, he served Sacred Heart, Larned, as a mission until 1923.

He served at Immaculate Conception, Claffin, from 1928 to 1946. Father Hayden helped the parish grow spiritually during the Depression, Dirty Thirties, and World War II. At the conclusion of his pastorate there, plans were well underway to construct a new church.

He was appointed pastor at St. John, Iola, in 1946. He retired in 1948 at the age of 70. In 1952, when Father Hayden was 74, Bishop Carroll asked him to accept the chaplaincy at Villa Maria, Mulvane. He served at this home for the aged for nine years until 1961.

Father Hayden died at St. Francis Hospital in Wichita on April 28, 1963 at the age of 85. Bishop Leo Byrne celebrated the funeral Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery in Wichita.