

February 1, 1920

Father Denis Healy



Father Healy was born in 1881 at Cloghroe, County Cork, Ireland. He was ordained for the Wichita diocese by Bishop Patrick Foley on June 17, 1905.

From 1905 to 1909, he was pastor at St. Mary's, Moline, with missions at Sacred Heart, Eureka, and St. John's, Hamilton.

Father Healy was the first resident pastor at St. Francis Xavier, Seward, and built the rectory there. During this pastorate (1909-1912), he also served the communities of St. John and Larned. Sacred Heart Church in Larned, which was dedicated Oct. 24, 1912, was constructed under his leadership.

Failing health required Father Healy to stay at St. Rose Hospital in Great Bend for a time. He then recuperated from his illness in Colorado. When he returned in 1914, he was made pastor of St. Joseph, Wichita, a parish that had been closed since 1890. He once again applied his efforts to building and on July 16, 1916, a towering brick edifice was dedicated.

The lingering effects of Spanish influenza forced his retirement on Dec. 23, 1919. He died at the age of 38 on Feb. 1, 1920. "He had plenty of the 'milk of human kindness' with just enough of human frailty tinged by a subtle sense of humor to make him an enjoyable associate with chance acquaintances and a most lovable person with his intimates." (CA Feb. 7, 1920)

Msgr. Bernard Schmiehausen celebrated his funeral at St. Joseph Church; Bishop Hennessy performed the absolution. Father Healy was buried at Calvary Cemetery in Wichita.