

**February 18, 1954**

**Father Victor Heithaus**



Father Heithaus was born Nov. 1, 1900 in St. Louis, Mo. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of St. Louis on June 8, 1927. After serving in the archdiocese from 1927 to 1941 he transferred to the Wichita diocese.

He served as assistant pastor at St. Joseph, Ellinwood, for a short time before receiving his first pastorate.

He was pastor at St. Joseph, Beaver, (1942-47) when the parish plant was heavily damaged after the community was struck by a tornado on June 23, 1944.

His other assignments were: St. John, Clonmel (1947-48); St. Bridget's, Scammon, and St. Mary's, Mineral (1948-50); St. John's Hospital, Iola (1950-51), and Sts. Peter and Paul, North Ellinwood (1951-52).

His assignment at North Ellinwood was due to two circumstances: St. John's Hospital at Iola was closed in January of 1951, and Father Oscar Vogel, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, died on Jan. 18, 1951 at the age of 42.

Later in 1951 when the Diocese of Dodge City was established, Father Heithaus became a member of the clergy of the new diocese.

Father Heithaus served as administrator at Sts. Peter and Paul until the summer of 1952 when he took a leave because of ill health. He resided at Via Coeli Monastery in Jemez Springs, N.Mex., until he died as the result of a heart attack on Feb. 18, 1954. He was 53.

Funeral services were held at St. Francis de Sales Church in St. Louis on Feb. 23, 1954. Father Claude Heithaus, S.J., a brother, was celebrant of the funeral Mass. Burial was in Sts. Peter and Paul's Cemetery, St. Louis.