

February 16, 1937

Father Stephen Hermanns



Father Stephen Hermanns was born April 30, 1874, in Aachen, Germany. He studied for the priesthood at the American University at Louvain, Belgium, where he was ordained for the Diocese of Leavenworth on Sept. 8, 1896.

In the Leavenworth diocese he served as an assistant at St. Mary, Kansas City. In 1897 he was named pastor of St. Ignatius, Neodesha, in Wilson County, with missions at Holy Name, Coffeyville, and St. Francis, Fall River, and a station at Fredonia. Later that same year, when Rome redefined the diocesan boundaries in Kansas, Wilson was one of 14 counties added to the Wichita diocese.

Father Hermanns became the first resident pastor at two parishes: Coffeyville in 1899 and St. Catherine, Dubuque in 1902.

His other pastorates included: St. Rose of Lima, Great Bend (1907-10), with the mission St. Francis Xavier, Seward, and stations at Dublin, Larned, and Pawnee Rock; Sts. Peter and Paul, North Kinsley (1910-13), with the missions St. Anthony, Hanston, and St. Mary, Hodgeman County; St. Boniface, Sharon (1913-23) with the mission St. John, Kiowa, and stations at Attica and Medicine Lodge, and St. Joseph, Ellinwood (1923-37). At Ellinwood he constructed the brick school and convent.

Father Hermanns had been pastor in Ellinwood for more than 13 years when he died of pneumonia on Feb. 16, 1937. Bishop Schwertner celebrated the funeral in Ellinwood and Father John Dambach, pastor of St. John the Evangelist, Hoisington, preached the sermon. Burial was in the Lakin-Comanche Cemetery in Ellinwood.