

**February 12, 1956**

**Father Hilary Hernandez**



Father Hernandez was born on Feb. 11, 1881 in Pedroso, Salamanca, Spain. He was ordained on Sept. 22, 1906. He served in the Diocese of Salamanca until December of 1910 when he traveled to Mexico to work as a missionary for the Diocese of Monterey.

In 1914, during a period of open persecution when priests were being killed, Father Hernandez escaped from Mexico with the help of the U.S. consul. He traveled to San Antonio, Texas, where he met Bishop Hennessy, who welcomed him to the Wichita diocese. He was appointed chaplain at St. Mary of the Plains Academy in Dodge City.

After the Academy was destroyed by a tornado on May 10, 1942, Father Hernandez was appointed chaplain at St. Anthony Hospital. During both chaplaincies he also served as pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church located in the Mexican Village in Dodge City's railroad yard. He built the brick church on Avenue J which was dedicated by Bishop Carroll April 19, 1950. He retired from active ministry in 1953 after serving as pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe parish for 39 years.

Father Hernandez died Feb. 12, 1956, at the age of 75 after suffering a severe heart attack. Bishop Franz celebrated the Pontifical Requiem Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery.

“Father Hernandez ... had the polish of a Castilian nobleman. He was a thorough gentleman and, best of all, a genuine priest. He was loved by Bishop and fellow priests, by the Mexican people in Dodge City, and by the Sisters of St. Joseph whom he had served as chaplain for almost twoscore years.” (AR Feb. 17, 1956)