

December 21, 1986

Father William Higgins, CPPS



Father Higgins was born Dec. 22, 1915, in Nowata, Okla. He was incorporated into the Society of the Precious Blood on Dec. 8, 1933. He was ordained Sept. 8, 1940, at St. Charles Seminary, Carthage, Ohio, by the Most Rev. George Rehring, auxiliary of Cincinnati.

Between 1940 and 1949, Father Higgins served as parochial vicar at Immaculate Conception, Memphis, Tenn.; St. Vincent de Paul, Logansport, Ind.; St. Remy, Russia, Ohio; and as hospital chaplain at St. Elizabeth, Dayton, Ohio; St. Bernard, Chicago; and St. Joseph, Fort Wayne, Ind.

From 1949 to 1952 he served on the mission band with residence in New Cumberland, Pa.; Cleveland, Ohio; and Cincinnati, Ohio. He was assigned to the Chilean missions in South America, but his life as a foreign missionary was cut short due to illness (1953-54). In the period 1954 to 1965, he served in various assignments, notably as superior at St. Mary Novitiate in Burkettsville, Ohio.

Father Higgins transferred to the newly-established Kansas City Province in 1965. His first assignment in the new province was as pastor at St. Stanislaus, Ingalls. His pastorate (1965-68) was marked by the construction of the parish center.

His remaining assignments were at Holy Family Hospital, New Richmond, Wisc; Sacred Heart, Sedalia, Mo., with the mission at Bahner; and Miami, Okla., with the mission at Grove and Welch. Father Higgins retired in 1986.

He died at Stroud, Okla., Dec. 21, 1986. The funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Elizabeth Church, Grove. Burial was at Resurrection Cemetery, Kansas City, Mo.