

January 7, 1981

Father Francis Jerasa



Father Jerasa was born Jan. 11, 1902 in Sv. Lenart, Yugoslavia. He was ordained June 29, 1925, by Bishop Anton Jeglic in St. Nicholas Cathedral, Ljubljana, Yugoslavia.

He served as an assistant at St. Peter's Church, Freddvor, (1926-34) and in the pastorates at Holy Trinity Church, Lv. Trojica, (1934-37), and Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Krka, (1937-46), before fleeing Yugoslavia to Italy after World War II. From 1946 to 1948, he was chaplain at a novitiate of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in Rome.

Father Jerasa came to Wichita in 1947 and was named chaplain of St. Joseph Home in El Dorado. In 1949 he was appointed pastor of St. John the Apostle, Kiowa, and in 1954 he also became the administrator of the newly-created Holy Rosary parish at Medicine Lodge. In 1958 he was named pastor of St. Ann, Olmitz, where he served until he was transferred to St. Patrick, Plains, (1965-71). He retired after 46 years in active ministry to Fowler where Msgr. Arnold Weller, a close friend, was pastor at St. Anthony Parish. When Father John Lavrih was named pastor at St. Anthony in 1980, Fowler had two native Yugoslavians living in the community.

Father Jerasa died Jan. 7, 1981, at the age of 78. Bishop Gerber presided at the funeral in St. Anthony Church. Burial was in the Fowler Cemetery.