

June 26, 1952

Father Francis Joyce



Father Joyce was born March 17, 1875 in Syracuse, N.Y. He was ordained June 6, 1903, for the Wichita diocese by Bishop Bernard McQuaid in St. Patrick Cathedral at Rochester, N.Y.

He was assigned as an assistant at St. Aloysius Pro-Cathedral, Wichita, (1903-04). He was appointed pastor at Immaculate Conception, Claflin, with the mission of Holy Name of Jesus at Cain City (1904-05).

In 1905, he entered the U.S. Army as a chaplain where he served with the 14th Cavalry and later with the 4th Field Artillery. He was the first army chaplain from the Wichita diocese.

His first military experience was in the Moro campaign in the Philippines. He later was detailed with troops sent to San Francisco after the earthquake. Labor troubles in Idaho called him next. He was then detailed to service on the Mexican border and went into Mexico with General John J. Pershing, who was in pursuit of Pancho Villa. During World War I he served in France.

In a letter to Bishop Schwertner dated May 9, 1922, Father Joyce wrote, "I have been retired from the service because of gas poison...(I) request permission to live for a time in Old Mexico. It is possible that the mild climate there may close up the holes in my lungs, made visible by the x-ray."

He lived in Mexico a short time before returning to Syracuse, N.Y., where he lived nearly 30 years with his sister. He died June 26, 1952. The Requiem Mass was in St. John the Evangelist Church, Syracuse. Burial was in Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Fayetteville, N.Y.