

March 20, 1977

Msgr. Leo Kelty



Msgr. Kelty was born April 2, 1911, in Childress, Tex. He attended elementary and high schools in Hannibal, Mo., Moberly, Mo., and Quincy, Ill.. He made his philosophy studies at Mundelein, Ill., Cincinnati, Ohio, and Webster Groves, Mo., and his theology studies at Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. He was ordained May 22, 1937 by Bishop Schwertner at St. Mary's Cathedral.

He was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart, Eureka, with the mission St. John, Hamilton. He served there until 1943 when he joined the United States Navy as a chaplain. He was one of ten Wichita priests serving as military chaplains in 1944.

In 1945 he was honorably discharged and was named pastor of Holy Redeemer, Tampa, and Corpus Christi, Skiddy. A year later he transferred to St. Patrick, Florence.

He served the following parishes in the Dodge City diocese: St. Andrew, Wright, (1949-60); St. Mary, Marienthal, (1960-65); Immaculate Conception, Claffin, (1965-60), and St. Joseph, Ashland, (1969-1977). He was state chaplain for the Knights of Columbus (1958-59).

He was made a domestic prelate by Pope John XXIII on Feb. 3, 1962.

Msgr. Kelty died March 20, 1977, at St. Joseph Memorial Hospital in Larned. He was 65 years old. He was the fourth diocesan priest to die within a ten-week period. The others were Msgrs. Grellner, Meyers and Felling.

Bishop Gerber celebrated the funeral at St. Joseph Church in Ashland on March 22. A second funeral Mass was celebrated March 24 at St. Pius X Church in Moberly, Mo. Burial was in the parish cemetery.