

January 28, 1941

Father Albrecht Kienhoefer



Father Kienhoefer was born on Jan. 14, 1863, in Reichenbach, Württemberg, Germany. He was ordained at Rottenburg, Germany, for the Leavenworth diocese on July 13, 1886. His assignments in the Diocese of Leavenworth included Assumption, Topeka; St. Rose, Council Grove; Sacred Heart, Newbury (Paxico); St. Bernard's, Strawberry; and St. John the Baptist, Hanover.

In 1897 he became a priest of the Wichita diocese when 14 counties in eastern Kansas were added to the boundaries. His assignment at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Windthorst, (1900-1906) was his only pastorate in the Dodge City diocese. He was the celebrant at the dedication Mass of St. John the Baptist Church in Spearville on Oct. 18, 1904.

Father Kienhoefer became pastor at St. Leo, Kans., in 1906. He died at St. Rose Hospital in Great Bend on Jan. 28, 1941. Bishop Winkelmann celebrated the Requiem Mass in St. Leo Church. Burial was in the parish cemetery.

Father Kienhoefer knew the "horse and buggy" age and was a lover of fine, fast horses. Long drives over prairie trails to scattered missions were part of his life. Later he became a confirmed auto enthusiast. He once remarked: "Think of the transformation, from three miles an hour with horse and buggy over rough trails to 60 miles an hour in a glass enclosed car over smooth concrete ribbons, During my novitiate, a 20-mile drive to answer a sick call meant a full day; to make a 75-mile long mission round was like undertaking an expedition. With a car, that would be a mere visit." (CA Jan. 1, 1941)