

**January 14, 1940**

**Father Joseph Kirmer**



Father Joseph Kirmer was born on Jan. 5, 1907 in Odin. He was ordained by Bishop Schwertner at St. Mary's Cathedral, Wichita, on May 26, 1934.

His one and only assignment was as assistant pastor at St. Mary's Cathedral in Wichita (1934-1940). During his brief ministry, he worked zealously to seek and instruct converts, a work in which he had considerable success with 140 converts in five years.

In August of 1939, while visiting his home in Odin, he was "swiftly and suddenly struck down with a serious stomach ailment. He was hurried to St. Rose Hospital at Great Bend and there he began his purgatory that lasted five months. Five operations were performed in an attempt to save his life, and at times it seemed as if Providence would answer the prayers of many that the young priest be given life and health...he rallied time and again, shook off threat after threat until it seemed that death would be cheated; but in the end the strain on his weakened body proved too much and, fortified with the Sacraments of the Church, and edifyingly resigned to the holy will of God, Father Kirmer gave up his soul." (AR Jan. 20, 1940)

He died on Jan. 14, 1940 at 33 years of age. Msgr. William Farrell, the pastor for whom Father Kirmer served as assistant, celebrated the Mass of Requiem at St. Mary's Cathedral. "He was outstanding," said Msgr. Farrell. "I had many good assistants but Father Kirmer was king of them all." Father John Moeder, also a native of Odin, preached the sermon and said, "I never met a priest that was as sincere and devoted to his work." Burial was in Nazareth Cemetery at Odin. (ibid)