

August 22, 1971

Father George Konda



Father Konda was born Oct. 2, 1923 in Spearville. He attended Windthorst elementary school and high school. He was ordained April 19, 1949, by Bishop Carroll at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Windthorst.

He served as assistant pastor at Holy Family, Odin, for six months, and a short time as administrator at St. Ignatius, Neodesha, before being named chaplain of Mercy Hospital in Fort Scott, where he also served as a member of the faculty of the nursing school.

He became assistant pastor of St. Mary, Newton, in the fall of 1950, and was transferred to St. Rose Hospital in Great Bend where he served as chaplain (1951-2).

His first pastorate came in 1952 when he was placed in charge of St. Mary, Loretto. During his time at Loretto, he built a new parish gymnasium, with a kitchen and dining hall (1955).

He was transferred to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Dodge City, in 1960. On March 20, 1961, the adobe rectory was extensively damaged after a gas explosion. Father Konda and his brother, Father Richard Konda, were in the rectory having lunch but neither was injured. A new brick rectory was constructed that same year.

Father Konda's other pastorates included: St. Joseph, Ashland (1965-68); and Immaculate Conception, Claffin (1968-71).

Father Konda was killed in a two-car accident on Aug. 22, 1971, on his way to conduct a wake service in Ellinwood. He was 47. Bishop Forst celebrated the funeral at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Windthorst. Burial was in the parish cemetery.