

**October 2, 1943**

**Father Joseph Kovalski**



Father Kovalski was born March 1, 1910, in Greenfield, Mass. He took his seminary studies at St. Peter's Seminary, London, Ontario, Canada, and Kenrick Seminary, St. Louis. Father Kovalski was a belated vocation. He was 32 years old when he was ordained for the Wichita diocese on May 30, 1942.

In his first assignment, he served as an assistant at St. Teresa Parish in Hutchinson where Father Daniel Reidy was pastor. He also served as auxiliary chaplain at the Hutchinson Naval Air Station.

Father Kovalski was appointed pastor of St. Catherine, Dubuque, in June of 1943. During his pastorate he installed a temporary chapel in the school.

On Sept. 26, 1943, he became ill following his Sunday Masses. He was taken to St. Rose Hospital in Great Bend where he died of pneumonia on Oct. 2, 1943. He was only 33 years old and had been a priest less than 18 months.

Bishop Winkelmann celebrated the Pontifical Mass of Requiem at St. Teresa's Church, Hutchinson. Burial was in Mater Dolorosa Cemetery in Greenfield, Mass.

Father Reidy, who knew the deceased priest better than any other member of the diocesan clergy, said that Father Kovalski was a zealous, energetic young man. "Thirty-two years old when he was ordained, Father Kovalski had a delayed vocation. He was very happy to reach the priestly goal at all. He showed his gratitude to Divine Providence by working hard for the salvation of souls. He was my assistant for only one year, but in that short time, the Hutchinson people had learned to love and respect him." (AR 10-8-43)