

December 2, 1943

Msgr. John Kraemer



Msgr. Kraemer was born Sept. 23, 1893, in Chicago. He was ordained May 1, 1917, in the Abbey church at St. Meinrad's Seminary, St. Meinrad, Ind., by Bishop Hennessy. He was appointed pastor pro-tem at Sacred Heart, Dodge City, serving there from June to October of 1917 and bridging the pastorates of Father John Handly and Msgr. Joseph Klug.

Msgr. Kraemer served as secretary to Bishop Hennessy and was an assistant at St. Mary's Cathedral in Wichita from 1917 to 1919.

His first pastorate was at St. Nicholas, Kinsley, (1919-1923). He then served as the first resident pastor of Sacred Heart, Larned, (1923-27).

In 1927, he was assigned to what would be his last pastorate. He served at St. John's, El Dorado, until 1943. While extensive improvements were made to the church and school during his pastorate, Father Kraemer's crowning achievement was perhaps having a prominent role in the location of St. Joseph's Home, an orphanage, in El Dorado (1942).

Pope Pius XII elevated him to the rank of domestic prelate with the title monsignor on June 10, 1943. Msgr. Kraemer learned that he had cancer a short time later when he became ill during a vacation to Colorado Springs. He spent five months at St. Francis Hospital in Wichita where he prepared for his death in a retreat of holy and patient waiting. He died Dec. 2, 1943, at the age of 50.

Bishop Winkelmann celebrated his funeral at St. John's Church in El Dorado. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Wichita.