

May 4, 1997

Father Alexander Leiker, CPPS



Father Leiker was born June 9, 1910, in Ellis. He entered St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Ind., where he was received in the Society of the Precious Blood on Dec. 8, 1930. He was ordained May 1, 1938, at St. Charles Seminary, Carthagena, Ohio, by the Most Rev. George Rehring, auxiliary bishop of Cincinnati.

He first assignment was parochial vicar at St. Anthony, Casper, Wyo. Later in 1938, he began a ten-year stint as parochial vicar and organist at St. Anthony in Detroit, Mich.

In 1948, Father Leiker received his first pastorate at St. Anthony in Lakin. He served in this post until 1955. This was to be his only assignment in the Dodge City diocese. When the parish built a new church in 1964, Father Leiker, a wood craftsman, constructed and fashioned the main altar, pedestals and candlesticks.

His remaining assignments were at St. Peter, Winimac, Ind., (1955-59) and St. Anthony at St. Peter, in the Salina diocese (1959-74). In 1974 he retired when his arthritis became so painful that he could not function efficiently as a pastor.

Father Leiker was an accomplished pianist and organist. In 1947, the seminarians at St. Charles Seminary were thrilled to have him as organ accompanist when they sang at the ordination of the Most Rev. Joseph Marling, CPPS, auxiliary bishop of Kansas City, in St. Monica Pro-Cathedral in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Father Leiker died in the hospital in WaKeeney on May 4, 1997, following a lengthy bout with pneumonia. Bishop Fitzsimons of Salina celebrated the funeral at St. Mary, Ellis. Burial was in the parish cemetery.