

**July 18, 1973**

**Father John Lilly, SJ**



Father Lilly was born Oct. 11, 1913, in Sioux City, Iowa. He attended grade school, junior high, high school and college in Sioux City. He entered the Jesuit novitiate at Florissant, Mo., on Sept. 1, 1935.

He took his priestly studies through philosophy at St. Louis University. He studied theology at St. Marys, Kans., and spent his period of tertianship at Decatur, Ill. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Society of Jesus June 18, 1947, by the Most Rev. George Donnelly, bishop of Kansas City in Kansas, in Immaculata Chapel at St. Mary's College in St. Marys, Kans. He celebrated his first Mass at the Cathedral of the Epiphany in Sioux City on June 22, 1947.

Father Lilly earned a bachelor's degree in Latin and Greek History, a master's degree in Latin Linguistics, and a Licentiate in Philosophy, all from St. Louis University. He taught at Regis High School in Denver; St. John's College in Belize, British Honduras; Kapaun High School in Wichita (1961-70); and St. Peter Claver, Punta Gorda, British Honduras.

He came to the Dodge City diocese on Feb. 5, 1972 and served as chaplain at St. Catherine Hospital, Garden City. He died of a heart attack in his residence at the hospital on July 18, 1973 at the age of 59.

The funeral Mass was celebrated in St. Louis, with burial in Calvary Cemetery there. Bishop Forst celebrated a memorial Mass with the priests of the diocese at St. Dominic Church, Garden City, on July 23.