

July 26, 1946

Father Anthony Mages



Father Mages was born April 9, 1898 at Spearville. He was ordained June 11, 1927, by Bishop Schwertner in St. Mary's Cathedral in Wichita. He celebrated his first Mass at St. John the Baptist Church in Spearville on June 14, 1927.

After his ordination, he was appointed pastor of St. Mary's, Chase, with care for three missions: Holy Trinity, Little River; St. Joseph's, McPherson; and St. Paul's, Lyons. At Chase he built a school and acquired a residence for the teaching Sisters (1937).

He also served at St. Anthony, Fowler, with St. John, Meade (1939-42); and Holy Family, Odin (1942-46).

Father Mages died unexpectedly at Spearville on July 26, 1946, while attending the funeral of Father Frank Dombrowsky. While the burial rite for Father Dombrowsky was being held in the cemetery, Father Mages died of a severe heart attack in the parish rectory. He was 48.

Msgr. Joseph Klug celebrated the funeral Mass at Odin on July 29. Continued requiem services were offered at Spearville by Father Vincent Smith on July 30. Bishop Winkelmann was ill and unable to attend the funeral. Burial was in the parish cemetery at Spearville.

"Beloved by old and young alike for his versatile gift for making friends, Father Mages spent himself untiringly for the people of Odin. The youth especially, in whom he had the power to kindle a great enthusiasm, will sorely miss his inspiring guidance. In the parish church a pastor, in the high school a teacher, among his children a father, Father Mages won the hearts of his people." (Remarks included in Father Mages obituary, AR Aug. 2, 1946)