

December 9, 1995

Father Leroy Matz



Father Matz was born Feb. 15, 1917, in Cicero, Ill., near Chicago. He was ordained June 1, 1946, by Bishop Winkelmann at Sacred Heart College Chapel (now Newman University) in Wichita.

He served as an assistant pastor at St. Patrick, Parsons (1946-48) and St. Joseph, Ellinwood (1948-50).

In 1950 he was appointed pastor of St. Louis, Waterloo, and St. Rose, Mount Vernon. He moved to St. Rose of Lima, Council Grove, in 1957.

Father Matz served in a number of hospital chaplaincies: St. Mary Hospital, Winfield (1958-60); Mount Carmel Hospital, Pittsburg (1960-67), and St. Francis Hospital, Wichita (1967-70). He also served as Director of Catholic Hospitals for the Wichita diocese (1964-70).

In 1970 he was appointed chaplain at Villa Maria Home for the Aged in Mulvane. The following year he was named assistant pastor of St. Anthony and St. Rose, both in Wellington, while continuing his chaplaincy at Villa Maria.

He became a part-time assistant chaplain at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita in 1972.

Father Matz's last appointment was as pastor of Holy Redeemer, Tampa, where he served for 17 years (1974-91). He retired to the Priests Retirement Center in Wichita in 1991. He died on Dec. 9, 1995, at the age of 78.

Bishop Gerber celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial in the St. Elizabeth Chapel at the Catholic Care Center. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Wichita.

Father Matz was an avid stamp collector and prized his stamps from the Vatican that he kept updated through a service run by seminarians in Rome. (CA Dec. 15, 1995)