

January 15, 2002

Father Andrew McGovern



Father McGovern was born Aug. 29, 1927, at Bundarra, Carrigallen, County Leitrim, Ireland. He was ordained at St. Peter's College, Wexford, Ireland, on June 7, 1953, by the Most Rev. James Staunton, bishop of Ferns.

He was one of many Irish priests who were recruited in the seminary for service in Kansas. After the Diocese of Dodge City was established in 1951, the newly ordained priests were divided by picking a slip of paper with the name of either the Wichita or Dodge City diocese from a biretta in Bishop Carroll's office.

Father McGovern served as associate pastor at St. Rose of Lima, Great Bend, for a short time in 1953 before his appointment as associate pastor at St. Joseph, Ellinwood, (1953-1957). His pastorates included: Sts. Peter and Paul, North Kinsley, and Holy Rosary, Burdett, (1957-1962); St. John, Kiowa, (1962-1965); St. Joseph, Beaver, (1965-1970); Sacred Heart, Larned, (1970-1979); St. John, St. John, and St. Francis Xavier, Seward, (1979-1991), and Immaculate Conception, Claflin, Holy Family, Odin, St. Joseph, Beaver, and St. Catherine, Dubuque, (1991-1993), and St. John, St. John, (1993-1996). While stationed in Larned, he also served as chaplain at St. Joseph Memorial Hospital. He was Diocesan Director for the Propagation of Faith from 1980 to 1996.

Father McGovern died Jan. 15, 2002, at the age of 74. Bishop Gilmore celebrated his funeral on Jan. 19 in St. Elizabeth Chapel at the Catholic Care Center, Wichita. He was buried at St. Joseph Cemetery, Aughavas, Carrigallen, County Leitrim, Ireland.