

March 27, 1963

Msgr. Martin Thomas Meehan



Father Meehan was born Nov. 11, 1875 in Scranton, Pa. He was ordained for the Wichita diocese on June 23, 1906, by Bishop Hennessy. After a few months at St. Aloysius Pro-Cathedral he was appointed pastor at St. Anthony, Strong City (1907-1908).

He was pastor at St. Mary, McCracken, when the parish property was located in Ness County. The duration of his pastorate was Feb. 9, 1908 to Sept. 26, 1909. During this time he was instrumental in enticing some of his relatives to relocate from Pennsylvania.

He was appointed pastor at Caney, (1909-1911), with a mission at Elgin and a station in Cedarvale. Father Meehan built churches in Caney (Sacred Heart) and Cedarvale (St. Joseph) during this pastorate.

His next assignment was at St. Francis Xavier, Cherryvale (1911-24) with the mission St. Agnes, Thayer. During this pastorate he built a school at Cherryvale.

Father Meehan served as chaplain of the Dominican Convent and St. Rose Hospital in Great Bend from 1924 to 1940. He retired to his home near the hospital.

In 1961, on the 55th anniversary of his ordination, Father Meehan was honored when Bishop Forst offered a Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Patrick Church in Great Bend. On this occasion it was announced that Pope John XXIII had elevated Father Meehan to the rank of Domestic Prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor.

Msgr. Meehan died March 27, 1963, at the age of 87. Bishop Forst celebrated the Solemn Pontifical Mass of Requiem at St. Patrick's Church. Burial was in the Great Bend Cemetery.