

**July 7, 1979**

**Msgr. John Moeder**



Msgr. Moeder was born Nov. 12, 1903 at Red Wing, southwest of Odin. His family later bought a farm and moved to Liebenthal. He was ordained May 30, 1931 by Bishop Schwertner in St. Mary's Cathedral.

He celebrated his first Mass at St. Joseph's Church June 2, 1931. Five days later, Father Rudolph Stollenwerk, pastor of the Liebenthal parish, was hospitalized with pneumonia. Father Stollenwerk died July 12, 1931. The newly-ordained Father Moeder administered the parish until Aug. 19, when Father J.E. Hackenbroich became pastor. Father Moeder was appointed pastor at St. Patrick, Plains, with the mission St. Anthony, Liberal (1931-32). He took graduate studies in Canon Law at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., (1932-35).

His assignments included: St. Mary's Cathedral, (1935-36); St. James, Augusta, with the mission Immaculate Conception, Red Bud (1936-42); St. Joseph, McPherson, (1942-55), and Sacred Heart, Colwich (1955-66).

Pope Paul VI elevated him to the rank of domestic prelate on Dec. 13, 1966.

During his priesthood he served the Wichita diocese as assistant chancellor, vice chancellor, pro-synodal judge, chaplain at Mt. St. Mary Convent, director of the Rural Life Conference, and Officialis of the Tribunal.

Msgr. Moeder died July 7, 1979, at the age of 75 in McPherson Memorial Hospital. Bishop David Maloney celebrated his funeral at Sacred Heart Church in Colwich. Burial was in the parish cemetery.

Msgr. Moeder wrote two editions of the "History of the Diocese of Wichita," 1937 and 1962.