

February 9, 1993

Father James Murphy



Father Murphy was born Sept. 14, 1912, at Stoco, Ontario, Canada. He was ordained on June 11, 1940 by Bishop John M. McNamara in Washington, D.C., for the (Franciscan) Province of the Holy Name of Jesus.

Prior to joining the diocesan clergy in 1951, Father Murphy taught at St. Bonaventure University in Alleghany, N.Y.; St. Joseph Seminary, Callicoon, N.Y., and Siena College, Loudonville, N.Y.

His first assignment in the Dodge City diocese was assistant pastor at St. Rose, Great Bend, (1951-52).

Father Murphy established the parish in Greensburg. He offered his first Mass there in an American Legion Hall on April 20, 1952, and celebrated Mass for the first time in the newly-constructed St. Joseph Church Nov. 1, 1952.

In 1956 he was appointed to St. Joseph, Ashland, with the mission of St. Mary, Sitka. During this pastorate a new church was constructed at Ashland and the Sitka church was closed. His other pastorates in the diocese included: St. Mary, Marienthal, (1965-1972); St. John, St. John, and St. Francis Xavier, Seward, (1972-1973); St. Bernard, Belpre, with chaplaincy at Larned State Hospital, (1974-1976), and St. John, Meade, (1976-80).

He served as chaplain at the Dominican Motherhouse in Great Bend for a short time in 1981, before accepting his last assignment as pastor at Meade with St. Patrick, Plains. He retired in San Antonio in 1982.

Father Murphy died in a San Antonio Hospital on Feb. 9, 1993. Bishop Schlarman celebrated his funeral at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Feb. 11. Burial was in Maple Grove Cemetery in Dodge City.