

October 4, 1968

Father John O’Flynn



Father O’Flynn was born May 31, 1896, at Firies, Killarney, Ireland. He was ordained for the Wichita diocese June 15, 1919, by the Most Rev. William Codd, bishop of Ferns, at St. Peter’s College Chapel in Wexford.

He served as an assistant at the Cathedral in Wichita (1920-21), and at St. Joseph, Ellinwood (1921-23).

His pastorates included: St. Patrick’s, Galena with the missions of St. Joseph, Baxter Springs and St. Rose, Columbus (1923-36); St. Barbara’s, Chicopee with the missions of St. Anastasia, Cherokee, and St. Cronin, Fleming (1936-40), and St. Mary, McCracken (1940-47).

Father O’Flynn learned of his appointment to McCracken in a unique way. On a hot summer day in June of 1940, he returned from visiting his missions in Crawford County to find Passionist Father Bernardine Alfaro waiting for him. After the usual shop talk, Father Alfaro asked if he might have a key to the rectory. When the amazed Father O’Flynn asked “Why?,” Father Alfaro responded, “I’m the new pastor of Chicopee and its missions. Didn’t you get a letter from the Chancery Office?” On investigating, the two priests found “the letter” deposited in the back of Father O’Flynn’s car with the junk mail that had been accumulating for the past couple of weeks.

He was appointed to his last pastorate in 1947 and remained pastor of St. Francis Xavier, Cherryvale, until his retirement in 1967.

Father O’Flynn died Oct. 4, 1968, at the age of 72. Bishop Maloney celebrated the funeral Mass in St. Francis Xavier Church. Burial was in the parish cemetery at Cherryvale.