

**January 27, 1939**

**Father William Paul**



Father Paul was born on Feb. 21, 1881, in Rhineland, Germany. He was ordained for the Society of the Divine Saviour Dec. 1, 1907, by Bishop Prospero Scaccia in the Church of Santa Maria in Monte Oliveto, Tivoli, Italy. He left the Society to become a secular priest.

He came to the Wichita diocese in 1910 and was named chaplain at St. John's Institute in Wichita, where he served the Sisters Adorers and students for 11 years.

Father Paul had two pastorates: St. Joseph, Offerle, (1921-31) and Sacred Heart, Cunningham (1931-39).

During his pastorate at Offerle, the parish moved into town from a location three miles west. A brick church was constructed in Offerle and dedicated by Bishop Schwertner Nov. 3, 1927.

In 1934, the growing congregation at Cunningham needed a larger church. Holy Name of Jesus Church at Stafford, closed for nearly a decade, was dismantled, transported to Cunningham and rebuilt. It was rededicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on May 30, 1934.

Father Paul suffered a heart attack and died on Jan. 27, 1939. A requiem Mass was celebrated in Cunningham by Father August Heimann. A second requiem Mass was celebrated by Msgr. John Hackenbroich, also a native of Rhineland, Germany, at St. Joseph Church in Liebenthal. Burial was in the Liebenthal parish cemetery.

“Father Paul was an accomplished musician. He was a splendid organist and a composer of hymns and Masses. Many of his compositions were marketed. But his success as musician and composer was eclipsed by his success as a pastor.” (CA Feb. 4, 1939)