

October 17, 1942

Father Anton Podgorsek



Father Podgorsek was born Jan. 31, 1867, in Rann, Province of Styria, pre-war Austria (later Yugoslavia). He was ordained Jan. 20, 1893, by Bishop Fink for the Leavenworth diocese.

He served in the following pastoral assignments: St. John the Baptist, Greeley, with the missions Holy Cross, Colony, and Holy Angels, Garnett (1893-95); and Sacred Heart, Frontenac (1895-98).

At St. Rose of Lima, Great Bend, he had charge of 16 missions (1898-1901). He was pastor at St. John Nepomucene, Pilsen, from 1901 to 1902 and completed the church there.

At the request of the bishops of Illinois, he ministered to the Slovenians and other Slavs who settled in the coal mining regions of that state (1902-1910).

His remaining assignments were St. Barbara, Chicopee (1910); Immaculate Heart of Mary, Windthorst (1910-12); Sacred Heart, Cunningham (1912-15); St. Francis Hospital, Wichita (1915), and St. Catherine, Dubuque (1915-23). He retired to a small house in Ellinwood in 1923.

He died from a heart ailment Oct. 17, 1942 at St. Rose Hospital in Great Bend. He was 75 at the time of his death.

Bishop Winkelmann celebrated the Mass of Requiem at St. Joseph Church in Ellinwood. Burial was in the Lakin-Comanche District Cemetery at Ellinwood.

“Father Podgorsek was an architect, carpenter, cabinet maker and construction expert. He did a great deal of (church) building in his active years. He was congenial and witty. He could reminisce with a finesse that rivaled Mark Twain.” (AR Oct. 23, 1942)