

**July 1, 2004**

**Msgr. A.F. Preisner**



Msgr. Priesner was born in Claflin on Aug. 18, 1915. He attended Immaculate Conception School until his family moved to Ashland. He was ordained June 9, 1940, by Bishop Winkelmann at Sacred Heart Chapel in Wichita.

He served as an assistant at St. Mary, Newton, for a short time before he was appointed pastor of St. Agnes, Castleton (1941-43). In addition to this assignment, he served as chaplain at St. Elizabeth Hospital and the state reformatory, both in Hutchinson.

During World War II, he was a military chaplain with the US Navy. He served at Mare Island, Calif., and on the USS Braxton in the South Pacific. He saw the devastated city of Nagasaki several days after the atom bomb was dropped. He then witnessed the signing of the papers that ended World War II in the Bay of Tokyo. He was chaplain at a base in Texas before his honorable discharge in 1947.

He returned to Kansas where his pastoral assignments included: St. Joan of Arc, Elkhart, with St. Helen, Hugoton, (1946-48); St. Mary, Aleppo, (1948-49); Sacred Heart, Larned (1949-66), with the chaplaincy at the state hospital there, (1949-51); Sacred Heart Cathedral, Dodge City, (1966-76); St. Anthony, Liberal (1976-84); and St. Andrew, Wright (1984-91).

Pope John XXIII elevated him to the rank of domestic prelate on May 9, 1959. He served the diocese as vicar general for three bishops from 1972 to 1987.

He retired to his home in Dodge City in 1991. He died July 1, 2004, at the age of 88. Bishop Gilmore celebrated the funeral at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Burial was in Highland Cemetery at Ashland.