

March 23, 1937

Father Maurice Reidy



Father Reidy was born on Feb. 12, 1880, in Newtown, County Cork, Ireland. He was ordained for the Wichita diocese by Bishop Patrick Foley on June 14, 1903 in the chapel at St. Patrick's Seminary, Carlow, Ireland.

He was appointed assistant at St. Aloysius Pro-Cathedral and substituted at St. Patrick Church in Chanute for a time in 1904 before returning to the pro-cathedral.

Father Reidy's first permanent assignment was as pastor at Immaculate Conception, Mineral, in Cherokee County (1904-1913). After nine years he was transferred to St. Rose of Lima, Great Bend. A new brick church was constructed during his pastorate there and dedicated on June 20, 1916.

He was appointed to what would be his third and final pastorate on Feb. 24, 1928. He served Sacred Heart Parish in Arkansas City until his death on March 23, 1937. Father Reidy was 57 years old; his death followed "a stroke of apoplexy."

Bishop Schwertner celebrated the Pontifical Requiem Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Arkansas City. Father (later Msgr.) P.J. O'Leary preached the sermon. "In young manhood, obeying His Divine Master's call, he left his own land and came to this diocese, where he gave himself unselfishly to his people. Kindness of heart and caring toward all were his outstanding qualities. He was a lover of freedom from his earliest boyhood in Old Erin, he gloried in the freedom of the United States and was proud of his American citizenship." (CA April 3, 1937)

Burial was in the Calvary Convent Cemetery (now Resurrection Cemetery), in Great Bend.