

**October 22, 1990**

**Msgr. Stephen Reif**



Msgr. Reif was born April 6, 1912, in Odin, where he later attended Holy Family School. He was ordained June 3, 1939, by Archbishop (later Cardinal) John J. Glennon at St. Louis Cathedral in St. Louis.

Immediately after ordination, he served in a short assignment at Sacred Heart, Cunningham, with Assumption, Turon, and later St. John's, Zenda, as missions. In 1940 he became assistant at Blessed Sacrament, Wichita.

His remaining pastoral assignments as a member of the Wichita diocesan clergy were: chaplain at Halstead Hospital (1942-43), and pastor at Sts. Peter and Paul, North Kinsley, with the missions St. Anthony, Hanston, and Holy Rosary, Burdett (1943-50); St. Joseph, Conway Springs (1950-51), and St. Paul, Lyons (1951-53).

He was at Lyons when the Wichita diocese was divided in 1951; he transferred to the Dodge City diocese in 1953. He was pastor of St. Mary, Marienthal, twice (1953-60 and 1980-89); St. Patrick, Great Bend (1960-69), and St. Theresa, Dighton (1969-80). During his first pastorate at Marienthal, he built a new school (1959); during his pastorate at Great Bend, he built St. Patrick Church (1968). He retired to Great Bend in 1989.

He was made a papal chamberlain by Pope John XXIII on May 8, 1959, and elevated to domestic prelate by Pope Paul VI on Oct. 14, 1964.

Msgr. Reif died at Central Kansas Medical Center in Great Bend on Oct. 22, 1990, at the age of 78. Bishop Schlarman celebrated the funeral Mass at St. Patrick Church in Great Bend, where he had served as the first resident pastor. Burial was in Nazareth Cemetery, Odin.