

**December 2, 1979**

**Msgr. William Schaefers**



Msgr. Schaefers was born Feb. 12, 1891, in Muenster, Westphalia, Germany. He was ordained June 6, 1918, by Bishop Hennessy at St. Mary's Cathedral.

Following a brief assignment as administrator of Sacred Heart, Colwich, he served as assistant at St. Mary, Newton (1918-21).

He was appointed as the first resident pastor at St. Joseph, Beaver, (1921-27). During his pastorate he opened the parish school and convent, and built a parish hall and rectory.

In 1927, he was appointed editor of the *Catholic Advance* and chaplain at St. Francis Hospital, Wichita. He was editor for 35 years, resigning in 1962, and chaplain for 40 years, retiring in 1967.

Pope Pius XII named him a domestic prelate in 1943, and Pope John XXIII elevated him to the rank of protonotary apostolic in 1960.

Msgr. Schaefers wrote four books. The most famous was *My Road To The Priesthood*. He was a retreat master, traveled extensively in Europe and the United States, and was a well-known speaker.

When he retired, the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother built him a house on the campus of St. Francis Hospital. He resided at Wichita's Catholic Center for the Aging for several months prior to his death.

Msgr. Schaefers died at St. Francis Hospital on Dec. 2, 1979, at the age of 88. Bishop David Maloney celebrated his funeral Mass in the hospital chapel. Bishop Gerber celebrated a Memorial Mass at Holy Family Church in Odin prior to interment in the parish cemetery there.