

**October 2, 1939**

**Bishop August J. Schwertner**



Bishop Schwertner was born Dec. 23, 1870, in Canton, Ohio. He was ordained to the priesthood June 12, 1897, by the Most Rev. Ignatius Horstman, bishop of Cleveland, for the Diocese of Toledo. Following assignments as assistant and pastor, he was appointed chancellor of the Toledo diocese.

He was elevated to the rank of domestic prelate and given the title monsignor by Pope Benedict XV on March 22, 1916.

Msgr. Schwertner was named bishop of the Wichita diocese March 10, 1921. He was installed June 22, 1921, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Wichita.

Bishop Schwertner served as ordinary of the diocese for 18 years during which time 45 schools, 42 churches, 36 rectories, 17 convents, eight parish halls and three hospitals were constructed.

He was known for his organizational skills, attention to detail, and for his visits to all parts of the diocese. He confirmed 31,380 children and adults.

Bishop Schwertner died of a cerebral hemorrhage Oct. 2, 1939, after nine months acute illness. The Most Rev. Karl Alter, bishop of Toledo, celebrated the Pontifical Funeral Mass at the Cathedral in Wichita. Archbishop Joseph Schrembs of Cleveland, who consecrated Bishop Schwertner, preached the funeral sermon and noted: "Bishop Schwertner succeeded because he did not make himself bigger than his work.... His devotion to duty was almost perfect." Burial was in Calvary Cemetery in Wichita. (AR Oct. 14, 1939)

Father Thomas Schwertner, O.P., was his brother.