

**May 24, 1935**

**Father George Sittenauer**



Father Sittenauer was born April 28, 1882, in Schwindkirchen, Bavaria. He was ordained May 13, 1911, by the Most Rev. John Ward of Leavenworth at his private chapel in Kansas City, Kans.

He was chaplain at St. Francis Hospital, Wichita, before being appointed assistant pastor at St. Mary, Newton, with the mission St. Mary, Halstead, (1911-13).

Father Sittenauer was appointed to his first pastorate at St. Mary, Garden City, in 1913. There he also served the missions of St. Anthony, Lakin; St. Raphael's, Syracuse; and for a time, a station at Ulysses. The Garden City congregation started building a towering brick church during his pastorate.

He was appointed pastor at St. Peter, Willowdale, in 1917. In 1924 lightning struck the parish school and the building was reduced to ashes. Father Sittenauer rallied the parish and Bishop Schwertner dedicated a new parish school on May 28, 1925.

He served as pastor of the Willowdale parish for 18 years until his death at the age of 53 on May 24, 1935. He died suddenly and unexpectedly from a throat infection.

Father Bernard Garmann, a classmate of the deceased, was the celebrant of the funeral at St. Peter's Church, Willowdale. Msgr. William Farrell, vicar general, gave the final absolution. Bishop Schwertner was unable to attend. Burial was in the parish cemetery in Willowdale.

“(He) was an ideal rural pastor. Evidence of his pastoral ability may be seen in the excellent order that prevailed in his parish, in the fine discipline to which he held his people with a firm but kind hand.” (CA June 1, 1935.)