

May 30, 1963

Msgr. Vincent Smith



Msgr. Smith was born Oct. 18, 1880 at Dayton, Ohio. He was ordained April 13, 1912 by Bishop Joseph Chartrand at Sts. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis, Ind. His first assignment was as an assistant at St. Mary's Cathedral, Wichita.

He served as pastor at St. Nicholas, Kinsley, with the mission at St. Joseph, Offerle, from 1912 to 1916. He then began a 24-year pastorate at St. John the Baptist Church in Spearville during which he built a new church, a new school and a new rectory. Bishop Hennessy dedicated the church Sept. 22, 1918; Bishop Schwertner dedicated the school on May 26, 1927, and rectory on Oct. 16, 1929.

Bishop Stephen Appelhans, S.V.D., and Archbishop Ignatius Strecker were two of the young men who entered the seminary during Msgr. Smith's pastorate.

In 1940 he was appointed chaplain at Halstead Hospital. After serving there for nine months, he was appointed pastor at St. Mary's, Newton, (1941-48). His last pastorate was at St. Bernard, Belpre, (1948-49).

He was appointed first chaplain of St. Joseph Memorial Hospital at Larned in 1949, but retired in that community shortly thereafter.

Because his last assignments had been within the Dodge City diocese, Msgr. Smith requested to be incardinated there. Bishop Franz granted this request on Jan. 31, 1955. He was elevated to the rank of domestic prelate by Pope John XXIII on the occasion of his golden jubilee in 1962.

Msgr. Smith died May 30, 1963 at the age of 72. Bishop Forst celebrated the funeral at St. John's Church in Spearville. Burial was at the parish cemetery.