

December 15, 1962

Father George Spaeth, CPPS



Father Spaeth was born March 24, 1902, in Sheboygan, Wisc. He was professed in the Society of the Most Precious Blood Dec. 3, 1922, and was ordained May 17, 1928, by the Most Rev. John McNicholas, archbishop of Cincinnati, at St. Charles Seminary, Carthage, Ohio. He served as assistant pastor at Immaculate Conception, Celina, Ohio, for four years.

In 1932, Father Spaeth was named chaplain at St. Catherine Hospital, Garden City, with care of the Spanish-speaking in Finney County. Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish (later known as St. William) was established in his first year in Garden City. Two years later he was ministering to a colony of Mexican immigrants at Deerfield. In 1937, he constructed Christ the King Church there by using two railway coaches.

Father Spaeth was named pastor of St. Mary, Garden City, in 1940. He remained in this post until 1954.

He served four years as pastor of St. Ludger, German town, Mo., but returned to southwest Kansas as pastor of St. Stanislaus, Ingalls, in 1959.

Father Spaeth died of cancer Dec. 15, 1962, at the age of 60. Bishop Forst celebrated a solemn Pontifical Mass at St. Stanislaus Church. Father John Wilson celebrated the funeral Mass at St. Mary Church, Garden City. Burial was in the community cemetery in Carthage, Ohio.

The Garden City Telegram named Father Spaeth one of the “Top 10 People of the Millennium.” “He is remembered as someone who leveled walls, helping bring together a congregation - and sometimes, a community - that had often been apart.” (*GC Telegram*, Jan. 1, 2000)