

October 17, 1999

Msgr. George Stewart



Msgr. Stewart was born Nov. 5, 1907, at Great Bend. He was ordained June 15, 1935 by Bishop Schwertner at St. Mary's Cathedral in Wichita. He served as an assistant at Blessed Sacrament, Wichita, from 1935 to 1940.

His pastorates included: St. James, Augusta (1940-47); Sacred Heart, Pratt (1947-60); Immaculate Conception, Claffin ((1960-1965); St. John the Baptist, Spearville (1965-73); St. John, Meade, and St. Patrick's, Plains (1973-76), and St. Aloysius, Ransom (1976-85).

On May 8, 1959, he was elevated to the rank of domestic prelate by Pope John XXIII and given the title right reverend monsignor.

In addition to his parish assignments, Msgr. Stewart served as a diocesan consultor, vicar forane of the Great Bend Deanery, Spiritual Director of the north Great Bend Curia Legion of Mary, Rural Life Director, and held several positions in the Tribunal.

In 1985 he retired to Claffin until 1997 when he moved to the Priests' Retirement Home in Wichita. He died Oct. 17, 1999, at the age of 91. Bishop Gilmore celebrated his funeral at St. John the Baptist Church in Spearville. Burial was in the parish cemetery.

During his eulogy, Bishop Gilmore shared these remarks: "When Msgr. Stewart was ordained, on that day he was reformed, refashioned in Christ. When he was ordained his character was altered.

"Msgr. Stewart was a priest through and through and through. The habit was strong upon him, the character fixed. He lived his priesthood so thoroughly and we are the beneficiaries of his gift to the priesthood."