

July 20, 1960

Father Peter Stremel



Father Stremel was born June 10, 1906 in Pfeifer. He attended the parish school at Mary, Help of Christians, Loretto. He was ordained on May 21, 1932 by Bishop Schwertner in St. Mary's Cathedral, Wichita.

His pastorates included: St. Aloysius, Greenbush (1932-35); St. Mary's, Sitka, with the mission St. Joseph, Ashland (1935-39); St. Boniface, Sharon (1939-48); (St. John the Evangelist, Clonmel, (1948-50); and Immaculate Conception, Claffin (1950-60).

At Sitka, Father Stremel enlarged the church by extending the sanctuary and adding a sacristy at each side (1937). He initiated a new church project at Sharon that regrettably was stymied by building restrictions during World War II. At Claffin he was instrumental in constructing a shrine to the patroness of the parish during 1954, the Marian Year commemorating the centenary of the document, *Ineffabilis Deus*, proclaiming the Blessed Virgin as the Immaculate Conception.

Father Stremel died at Ellinwood Hospital on July 20, 1960 after suffering a heart attack. He was 54. Bishop Forst celebrated the Pontifical Mass of Requiem at Immaculate Conception Church. Burial was in the Claffin Cemetery.

Two of Father Stremel's sisters entered the religious life. Both Sister Angelica and Sister Dorothy were members of the Sisters Adorers of the Blood of Christ. Other women religious in the family included two aunts, three cousins, and a niece. He also had three cousins who were ordained to the priesthood: Msgr. Alex Stremel, Msgr. Joseph Stremel, and Father Adolph Stremel.