

September 21, 1992

Father James Tainter



Father Tainter was born Oct. 20, 1904, in St. Charles, Mo. He entered the Society of Jesus on Sept. 2, 1922. As a Jesuit scholastic, he was teaching at St. John's College in Belize when a hurricane killed nearly 2,000 people on Sept. 10, 1931. Of the 11 Jesuits in Belize at the time, only Father Tainter survived.

He was ordained June 23, 1935, at St. Mary's, Kans., by the Most Rev. Francis Johannes, bishop of Leavenworth.

His first assignment was in retreat work at the White House Jesuit Retreat in St. Louis. From 1937 to 1942 he was on the faculty of Prairie du Chien, a boarding school for boys in Wisconsin.

He was a stateside base military chaplain during World War II and was promoted to the rank of Major.

After 1944, Father Tainter was engaged in parish work. In 1947, Bishop Carroll, a friend of the Tainter family, invited him to Kansas. He applied for dismissal from the Jesuits and was released on Aug. 12, 1947.

Father Tainter was an assistant at St. Rose, Great Bend (1948-49). His pastorates included: St. Francis Xavier, Seward (1949-58); Sacred Heart, Ness City (1958-65); St. John, Hoisington (1965-74), and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Windthorst (1974-85). He retired to Spearville.

Father Tainter died on Sept. 21, 1992 at St. Francis Regional Medical Center, Wichita. He was 87. Bishop Schlarman celebrated the funeral Mass at St. John the Baptist Church in Spearville. Burial was in St. Francis Xavier Cemetery at Seward.

Two siblings also entered the religious life: Father Daniel Tainter, S.J. and Mother Frances Tainter, R.S.C.J.