

November 23, 1995

Father Joseph Tockert



Father Tockert was born March 19, 1917, in Odin. He was ordained in Holy Family Church by Bishop Winkelmann on Dec. 12, 1943.

He was appointed assistant at Blessed Sacrament, Wichita, before leaving to serve as a chaplain with the U.S. Army in the Philippines during World War II. He rose to the rank of captain.

Upon returning from service, he served as an assistant at St. Rose, Great Bend (1947-48), and as an administrator at St. John the Evangelist, Hoisington (1948-49).

His pastorates and remaining assignments were: St. Joseph, Ashland, with St. Mary's, Sitka (1949-50); Sacred Heart, Cunningham (1950-58); the chaplaincy at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and the State Reformatory, Hutchinson (1958-59); St. Anthony, Strong City (1959-63); Immaculate Conception, Danville (1963-66); St. Barbara, Chiocpee, with St. Anastasia, Cherokee (1966-70); teacher at Colgan High School, Pittsburg (1970-74), and St. Joseph, Yates Center (1974-95), with St. Martin, Piqua (1992-95).

Father Tockert died Nov. 23, 1995, at the age of 78. Bishop Gerber celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial at St. Martin Church, Piqua. Burial was in Resurrection Cemetery, Wichita.

Of the 12 children born to Mr. and Mrs. Nick Tockert, seven entered the religious life. Father Tockert had five sisters who were Dominican Sisters of Great Bend: Sisters Mary Florence, Mary Nicholas, Mary Margaret, Mary Theodosia, and Mary Reginald; and a brother, Brother Nicholas, who was professed as a Benedictine at Atchison.