

May 27, 1979

Father Leonard Torline



Father Torline was born Dec. 11, 1904, near Spearville. He was ordained May 30, 1931 by Bishop Schwertner at St. Mary's Cathedral in Wichita.

His pastoral assignments included: St. Catherine of Alexandria, Dubuque (1931-37); St. Patrick, Walnut, and St. Mary, Hiattsville, (1937-40); St. Francis Xavier, Seward, (1940-49); St. Patrick, Florence, (1949-51); St. Joseph, Conway Springs, (1951-63), with St. Mary, Moline; the chaplaincy at St. Margaret Mercy Hospital, Fredonia, (1964-68); St. Aloysius, Greenbush, (1968-74), and the chaplaincy at Mercy Hospital, Independence.

During his pastorate at Dubuque the church was lit with electric lights for the first time at Midnight Mass, 1935. During his pastorate at Seward, the mission at St. John was established. The chapel from the Pratt Army Air Base was secured and moved to the community. Bishop Carroll dedicated St. John the Apostle Church at St. John on April 24, 1949. During his pastorate at Conway Springs, he built a school addition (1955) and a new church which Bishop Carroll dedicated on March 19, 1958.

Father Torline retired from his duties at Mercy Hospital in 1978 after suffering a stroke. He resided at the Catholic Center for the Aging in Wichita, and was for a short time a patient at St. Francis Hospital before his death.

He died May 27, 1979 at the age of 74. Father A.J. Nett was the principal celebrant at his funeral at St. John the Baptist Church in Spearville. Msgr. Charles Walsh, V.G., represented Bishop David Maloney of Wichita; Msgr. Norbert TEMAAT, chancellor of Dodge City, represented Bishop Gerber. Burial was in St. John Cemetery in Spearville.