

March 9, 2002

Father Fred Tuzicka



Father Tuzicka was born Feb. 23, 1923, in rural Otis. He was ordained by Bishop Carroll in Holy Trinity Church, Timken, on May 20, 1951. This ordination took place the day after the date on the papal document establishing the Dodge City diocese. Word of the division of the Wichita diocese was not made public, however, until June 6, 1951. Father Tuzicka was originally ordained for the Wichita diocese but served his entire priesthood in the Dodge City diocese.

He served as an assistant at Sacred Heart Cathedral (1951-53) before being named full time chaplain at St. Anthony Hospital in Dodge City (1953-55).

His other pastoral assignments included: St. Joseph, Offerle, (1955-62) with St. Mary, Hodgeman County; St. Patrick, Plains (1962-65); St. Lawrence, Jetmore (1965-73) with St. Anthony, Hanston, and Holy Rosary, Burdett; St. Ann, Olmitz (1973-80) and administrator at Holy Trinity, Timken (1979-80), Immaculate Conception, Claflin (1980-1986) and administrator of Sts. Peter and Paul, North Ellinwood, and St. John, St. John, (1986-93) and St. Francis Xavier, Seward. He retired in Great Bend.

Father Tuzicka died March 9, 2002, at the age of 79. Bishop Gilmore celebrated the Mass of Resurrection at Holy Trinity Church, Timken. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery at Timken.

Father Tuzicka served as state co-chaplain for the Knights of Columbus in 1980 and 1981 with Father Gerald Hammeke. Father Hammeke remembered his friend as someone who “loved his priesthood and ...loved the Church.” (SKR March 21, 2002.)