

**March 29, 1986**

**Father John Vesecky**



Father Vesecky was born Feb. 8, 1913 at Timken. He was a religious vocation from Holy Trinity Parish. He was ordained June 9, 1940 by Bishop Winkelmann in the chapel at Sacred Heart College (now Newman University) in Wichita.

He was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart, Perth, and St. John, Kiowa, with residence at St. Martin's, Caldwell, on June 30, 1940. He established his residence in Kiowa in September of 1941. During this pastorate he also established the mission of Our Lady of Sorrow in Bluff City.

He was appointed pastor of St. Mary, Sitka, and St. Joseph, Ashland, serving from June, 1943 to July, 1944. Due to his fluency in the Czech language he was appointed to St. John Nepomucene, Pilsen, to replace Father Emil Kapaun who left to become a military chaplain.

He was appointed pastor of St. Rose of Lima, Council Grove, and Corpus Christi, Skiddy, in 1948. He was appointed pastor of St. Bernard, Belpre, in 1949 and remained in parishes in the Dodge City diocese after it was established in 1951.

These pastoral assignments included: Belpre (1949-60); Sacred Heart, Pratt, (1960-65); St. Ann, Olmitz, (1965-73), and Holy Family, Odin, (1973-76).

His health forced a temporary retirement to Pratt in 1976, but he was appointed chaplain at Pratt Regional Medical Center in October of that year. He died on March 29, 1986, at the age of 73.

Bishop Schlarman celebrated the Mass of Resurrection at Sacred Heart Church, Pratt. Burial was in Holy Trinity Cemetery, Timken.