

September 30, 1939

Father Alfred Walsh



Father Walsh was born Sept. 6, 1874, in England. He was ordained for the Diocese of Wichita on June 11, 1904.

He received his first pastorate after serving a short time as an assistant at St. Aloysius Pro-Cathedral.

His pastorates included: St. Patrick, Kingman (1904-19); St. John the Evangelist, Hoisington (1919-27); St. Francis Xavier, Cherryvale (1927-37), and St. Patrick's, Parsons (1937-39).

Father Walsh entered Mercy Hospital in Parsons for a checkup because he was not feeling well. He died of a heart attack five days later on Sept. 30, 1939 at the age of 65. Father Patrick Leahy, the assistant at Parsons at the time, reached his hospital bed to administer the last sacraments just minutes before he died.

Msgr. J.A. Pompenny of Newton was the celebrant of the funeral at St. Patrick Church, Parsons, Oct. 2, 1939. Bishop Schwertner died at his episcopal residence earlier that same morning. Father Walsh was buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Parsons.

Father William Schaeffers wrote the following about Father Walsh: "He held his vocation in the very highest esteem and, harboring rigorous opinions as to what ought to be the conduct of an Ambassador of Jesus Christ, he long ago outlined a plan of living that included shunning the public eye and keeping to his books. As a pastor, the spiritual welfare of his people concerning him greatly.... (he) was strict with himself. He never owned nor drove a car. His vacations were few and far apart. He had a devotion to his pastoral duties." (CA Oct. 7, 1939)