

November 18, 1946

Bishop Christian Winkelmann



Bishop Winkelmann was born Sept. 12, 1883, in St. Louis. He was ordained to the priesthood June 11, 1907, by the Most Rev. John Kain, archbishop of St. Louis. He was consecrated bishop on Nov. 30, 1933, and served as auxiliary bishop to Cardinal John Glennon until 1940. His parish work totalled 33 years.

He was installed as the third bishop of Wichita on March 5, 1940, by Cardinal Glennon at St. Mary's Cathedral. Under his episcopal leadership, the Wichita diocese experienced substantial growth, both spiritually and physically.

Despite World War II and the subsequent shortage of materials, building continued. Schools, convents and rectories were the primary building projects. He expanded minority parishes, began programs for youth, established the Diocesan Charities Office, started the St. Vincent de Paul Society, was Supreme Spiritual Director of the Catholic Knights of America, and served as the Episcopal Protector of the Third Order of St. Francis.

Following an illness in March of 1946, Bishop Winkelmann was confined to St. Joseph's Hospital until his death five months later on Nov. 18, 1946. He was 63 years of age. Archbishop (later Cardinal) Ritter of St. Louis celebrated the funeral Mass at St. Mary's Cathedral. The Most Rev. Paul Schulte, archbishop of Indianapolis, preached the sermon. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery in Wichita.

At the time of his death, the diocesan statistics reflected the following: 199 priests; 112 parishes with a resident pastor; five parishes without a resident pastor; four missions, three stations, and a Catholic population of 60,276.