

**November 6, 1978**

**Msgr. John Zenner**



Msgr. Zenner was born Oct. 25, 1921, in Goddard. He was ordained Feb. 4, 1948, by Bishop Carroll in St. Mark's Church at St. Mark. He served as assistant pastor at Holy Family, Odin (1948-49), and Blessed Sacrament, Wichita (1949-50). He then served as chaplain at St. Rose Hospital in Great Bend (1950-51).

In 1951, he became vice-chancellor of the new Dodge City diocese. He was appointed chancellor in 1958 and served in that post until 1962.

He was named papal chamberlain by Pope John XXIII on May 8, 1959, and elevated to domestic prelate by Pope Paul VI on Oct. 14, 1964.

Msgr. Zenner served in the following pastorates: St. Andrew, Wright (1962-65); St. Nicholas, Kinsley (1965-69); St. Patrick, Great Bend (1969-72); St. Boniface, Sharon (1972-74), and Sacred Heart, Pratt (1974-78).

Msgr. Zenner died suddenly of an apparent heart attack on Nov. 6, 1978, at the age of 57. Bishop Gerber celebrated a Pontifical Mass at Sacred Heart Church in Pratt on Nov. 8. The following day, Bishops Gerber, Maloney, and Carroll concelebrated the funeral Mass at St. Mark's Church. Burial was in the parish cemetery.

Msgr. Zenner held the following diocesan positions: Director of Hospitals, Director of Vocations, Diocesan School Board member, member of the Diocesan Priests' Trust Fund board, Diocesan Commission for the Promotion of Christian Unity, Diocesan Consultor, Commission for the Continuing Education for Clergy, and Director of the Permanent Diaconate. He was also state co-chaplain for the Knights of Columbus in 1972 and 1973.