February 1, 2005

Rev. Stanley Redmerski

Stanley Redmerski was born to Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Redmerski of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on October 18, 1927. Father Redmerski was educated in Catholic schools near his home. He enlisted in the Army in 1950, and was on active duty during the Korean War. After the war, Father Redmerski worked in a steel mill until he entered the seminary in 1954. He studied at Saint Vincent College in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, and Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan. On May 31, 1958, he was ordained at the Cathedral of Saint Paul in Pittsburgh, by Archbishop John Dearden for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Redmerski once remarked, “being a priest is not a job; it’s a mission.” Father Redmerski was a parochial vicar at Saint Teresa, Lincoln (1958-1962), Saint Joseph, York (1962-1964), and Saint Mary, Lincoln (1964-1966). During his time as assistant at Saint Teresa, Father Redmerski became a chaplain in the Army Reserve. He continued to serve as such until he retired from the armed forces in October 1987. During his military service Father Redmerski earned many medals and recognitions. In 1966, he was assigned as a full-time teacher at Pius X High School and chaplain to several Lincoln hospitals. In 1970, Father Redmerski began his twenty-seven year chaplaincy at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. From 1981 to 1997, Father was director of the Diocesan Development Program (DDP). He is remembered for his quick-witted sense of humor often displayed while at DDP meetings.

In December 1997, Father Redmerski retired with the title “Chaplain Emeritus” of Madonna. He departed from this life on February 1, 2005. A Mass of Christian Burial was held at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ, Lincoln, on February 4 with burial at Calvary Cemetery, Lincoln. Father James Meyenburg preached the funeral homily. He recalled Father Redmerski’s compassion for the persons to whom he ministered, especially those who suffered much.
February 1, 1919    Rev. Joseph Bartik

Joseph Bartik was born on January 13, 1857 in Bohemia. He was ordained there on July 20, 1882. Father Bartik came to Lincoln on February 15, 1891, and was assigned to Milligan and Odell.

In 1902, he was appointed as the first resident pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Plattsmouth. Since there was no rectory, Father Bartik directed the construction of a small residence that cost about $800. The following year he supervised the renovation of the church with an expenditure of $250.

On March 1, 1905, Father Bartik transferred to the Omaha Diocese. He died at Holy Trinity Parish in Heun, Nebraska, on February 1, 1919.

February 1, 1978    Rev. Henry Gozanski

Henry Gozanski was born on June 22, 1912, at Superior, Wisconsin. He studied at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Worthington, Ohio. Students at the Josephinum were under the immediate jurisdiction of the Apostolic See. The Apostolic Delegate assigned them to the various dioceses.

At the time of his ordination on May 29, 1938, Father Bartik was assigned to the Diocese of Lincoln. He served at Saint Elizabeth Hospital in Lincoln, and St. Joseph Church in York, before he was named administrator of Superior and Nelson on September 14, 1942.

In 1942, Father Gozanski asked permission to affiliate with his home Diocese of Superior, Wisconsin. He left Nebraska on September 14, 1942. He died on February 1, 1978.
Our Lady of Guadalupe,   
Mystical Rose,   
make intercession for Holy Church,   
protect the sovereign Pontiff,   
help all those who invoke you in their necessities,   
and since you are the ever Virgin Mary   
and Mother of the true God,   
obtain for us from your most holy Son   
the grace of keeping our faith,   
of sweet hope in the midst of the bitterness of life   
of burning charity, and the precious gift   
of final perseverance.

John Zastrow was born on May 2, 1924, in Dakota County, Nebraska. He attended Hubbard Public and Emerson High School. After graduating from college at the Crosier Seminary in Onamia, MN, he received his degrees in Philosophy and Theology from St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, MN.

Father Zastrow was ordained on May 31, 1956 at St. Cecilia Church, in Hastings by Bishop John L. Paschang. During his active ministry, Father Zastrow served as Assistant Pastor at St. Mary Cathedral, Lincoln (1956-1960). He then completed his graduate studies at Creighton University in Omaha. In 1961, he was made the Principal of Aquinas High School in David City, with residence at Holy Trinity Parish, Brainard (1961-1964). In January of 1964, Father Zastrow was assigned Pastor of the parishes of St. Mary and St. Andrew in Osceola, while continuing as Principal of Aquinas High School until June of 1964. In the summer of 1964, he became Superintendent of Neumann High School, with residence in St. Wenceslaus rectory in Wahoo. The next year he was stationed as Pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Colon, remaining Superintendent of Neumann High School (1965-1976).

The following year, Father Zastrow was Pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Rulo; St. Mary Parish, Arago; and teacher of Religion at Sacred Heart High School, Falls City. From 1977 until 1981, he was Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Shelby. He was then appointed Pastor of St. John Parish, Cambridge and St. Germanus Parish, Arapahoe (1981-1985). His next position was that of Administrator of All Saints Parish, Holdrege, and St. John Parish, Smithfield (1985-1987). In 1987, he was made Pastor of All Saints Parish and St. John Parish, where he remained until his retirement at Bonacum House in Lincoln in 2000.

After serving his country during WWII as a B-29 navigator, surviving having his plane being hit by anti-aircraft weaponry and catching fire, and receiving the “Distinguished Flying Cross”, he answered the higher call to serve God and His people for over 65 years as a priest.

This humble, faithful servant was called to his eternal home on February 2, 2022. The Rosary was prayed at Butherus-Masur and Love Mortuary on February 6, 2022 and the Mass of Christian Burial was at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln on February 7, 2022. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery in Lincoln.
Anthony Mainville was born October 18, 1847, in Canada. He began his studies for the priesthood in Quebec, Canada. On September 29, 1875, he was ordained in Chicago, Illinois, by Bishop Thomas Foley for the Diocese of Chicago.

Father Mainville’s first appointment was to Bourbonnais Grove, Illinois. He served there until 1887, when he transferred to the recently-established Diocese of Concordia, Kansas.

After being pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Plainville, Kansas for three years, Father Mainville came to the Diocese of Lincoln June 21, 1890. From June 30, 1890 to September 7, 1890, Father Mainville served the Catholics in Fairbury. He was then appointed pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Rulo, and remained there until April 1, 1894, when he returned to Illinois.

In his 88th year of life, while residing at Mercy Home in Ohio, Illinois, God called Father Mainville to his heavenly home February 3, 1934.

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“I am the resurrection.

If anyone believes in me, even though he dies he will live, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.”

Jn. 11:26.
Thomas Bonacum was born on January 29, 1847, in County Tipperary, Ireland. The family left Ireland and settled in St. Louis. Thomas studied at the seminary in Milwaukee and St. Vincent Seminary in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He was ordained on June 18, 1870 by Bishop Joseph Melcher.

He served at Edina, Missouri 1870-1871, Indian Creek 1871-1874, and Kirkwood 1874-1877. From 1877-1879, Father Bonacum studied at the University of Würzburg in Bavaria. Other pastoral assignments were Rolla 1879-1881, and Holy Name Parish, in Saint Louis from 1881-1887.

Father Bonacum was ordained to the episcopate on November 20, 1887, and installed as Bishop of Lincoln on December 21, 1887. The career of Bishop Bonacum was an eventful one. Many new churches and schools were built, but the Bishop was especially proud of Saint Thomas Orphanage.

Bishop Bonacum was a man of strong convictions and when he thought he was in the right, he made a determined effort to carry out his plans. At times this caused him some unpleasant experiences. All who knew him personally admired and respected him. Father John Carey made this remark at the dinner celebrating Bishop Kucera's 25th anniversary: "The more the passing of years takes us older priests away from the time of Bishop Bonacum, the greater he looms up before us. Bishop Bonacum was a true pioneer bishop. He was a builder. He knew his duty and loved it. He thought not of himself, only of the work to be done."

God relieved Bishop Bonacum of the burden of his duties on February 4, 1911.
Frank, son of Thomas and Mary Leiblinger, was born on February 23, 1911, in Cleveland, Ohio. He attended Saint Adalbert and Cathedral Latin Schools before enrolling in John Carroll University. In response to God's call to serve him as a priest, he studied at Saint Procopius Seminary in Lisle, Illinois, and at Kenrick Seminary in Webster Groves. He was ordained by Bishop Kucera in Saint Mary Cathedral, Lincoln, on April 16, 1938.

Father Leiblinger's first assignment was at Wahoo. In September of 1939, he was transferred to Loma where he served for twenty years. Other places where Father Leiblinger served God's people were Seward, Syracuse, Avoca, Deweese, Lawrence, Friend, Milligan, Red Cloud and Riverton. While stationed in Red Cloud, Father Leiblinger occasionally offered Holy Mass in the former Saint Juliana Catholic Church, which is now the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial.

The favorite recreational activities of Father Leiblinger were hunting and golfing. He enjoyed these sports with his brother priests and parishioners.

On April 17, 1988, Father Leiblinger celebrated the Golden Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. Two years later he retired from the active ministry. He resided in Blue Hill until October of 1996, when he returned to his native state of Ohio.

On February 4, 1997, Father Leiblinger answered his Master's call to his eternal home. The Mass of Christian Burial was offered for him in Saint Basil Church, Brecksville, Ohio, with burial in Calvary Cemetery, Cleveland. Bishop Bruskewitz offered a Memorial Mass for him at Saint Luke Shrine, Loma, Nebraska, on February 14, 1997.

"Be awake to all the dangers, stay firm in the faith, be brave, be strong."
1 Corinthians 16:13-14.
Charles O'Reilly was born on January 4, 1869, in St. John, New Brunswick. He attended the Sulpician Seminary in Montreal and was ordained on June 29, 1890 in Portland, Oregon. Father O'Reilly was given charge of the missions of Oswego and Tigard 1890-1894, and of Immaculate Heart Parish in Portland 1894-1903.

Father O'Reilly was appointed the first Bishop of Baker City, Oregon in 1903. He had only eight priests to help him care for 6000 Catholics scattered over an area of 65,000 square miles. This difficult apostolate was accomplished at a great cost to his physical well-being.

On June 25, 1918, Bishop O'Reilly was installed as the third Bishop of Lincoln. During his administration of five years, six schools and ten parishes were established.

On February 4, 1923, Bishop O'Reilly completed his arduous missionary work. An editorial in the True Voice listed some of his characteristics.

"The most striking traits of Bishop O'Reilly were his whole-hearted devotion and deep sincerity in his work. He was willing to make any sacrifice in the cause of religion. Full of zeal and sometimes impetuous and impatient of difficulties, he was continually active in diocesan duties. To some he seemed over-zealous and over-anxious. But he thought no effort too great and no work too arduous for the welfare of his people. He was a veritable apostle of religious work in this modern age of ease, pleasure and skepticism...He was a man of God who tried to do God's work in the best manner possible."
John Vleek was born on April 15, 1866 in Mladikov, Bohemia. In preparation for the priesthood, he studied in Klattau and Budweis, Bohemia. He was ordained in Budweis on July 17, 1892, by Bishop Martin Riha for the Diocese of Budweis. After coming to the United States, Father Vleek spent some time in Omaha before coming to Lincoln on February 3, 1899.

Bishop Thomas A. Bonacum appointed Father Vleek pastor of Plasi in 1899. Under his direction a new church was constructed to replace the one destroyed by fire on April 14, 1901. After serving the congregation of Saints Cyril and Methodius for more than a decade, Father Vleek was transferred to Holy Rosary Parish in Plattsmouth.

On May 3, 1910, the parishioners of Holy Rosary gave a hearty welcome to Father Vleek. They had been without a resident pastor for a year and a half. Under the direction of Father Vleek, the parish celebrated its Silver Jubilee on October 4, 1916.

After ministering to the Czechs in the Diocese of Lincoln for 20 years, Father Vleek returned to his native land on October 15, 1919. He died there on February 5, 1923.
Father Raphael was born on December 3, 1888, in Ireland and ordained July 6, 1914, in Holy Trinity Church, Cork County, Ireland as a member of the Capuchin Order. He came to Lincoln on November 18, 1925 to take charge of Sacred Heart Parish.

The Capuchin Fathers of the Irish Province had directed Sacred Heart Parish since its establishment in 1919. Father Raphael was the fourth pastor of this parish.

During the pastorate of Father Raphael, the parish center was moved from Twenty-fifth and Y Streets to Thirty-first and T Streets. The new center consisted of a friary, a convent and property to be used as a site for a church and school.

In the fall of 1926, the Capuchins moved to the new location. Under the direction of Father Raphael, a combination church and school building was erected in 1927. Because of the leadership shown by Father Raphael, Bishop Kucera requested that he remain at Sacred Heart Church for a third term of three years. This request was granted in 1931.

A subsequent request of Bishop Kucera for a fourth term for Father Raphael was refused. Accordingly, Father Raphael was transferred to San Francisco in September of 1934. He died there on February 5, 1940.
James Conley was born on November 13, 1863, in Darlington, Wisconsin. He studied at Saint Francis Seminary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and at the Seminary of Saint Sulpice in Baltimore, Maryland. He was ordained by Cardinal Gibbons in Baltimore on June 20, 1890, for the Diocese of Lincoln.

On July 18, 1890, this recently-ordained priest began his duties as the first resident pastor of Saint Anthony Church, Steinauer. His rectory was the original church that had been moved to town and remodeled for a parochial residence.

Father Conley was transferred to Saint Joseph Church, Auburn in 1892. His other assignments were Falls City 1893-1894 and Dawson from September 1, 1894 to February 7, 1895.

At age 31, tuberculosis claimed the life of Father Conley on February 7, 1895. The struggling diocese that had not yet observed the eighth anniversary of its establishment was deprived of another young priest.

"God's way is unerring,
the promise of the Lord
is fire-tried;
He is a shield to all who
take refuge in him."
Ps. 18:31.
Francis Sherman was born on April 18, 1909 in Wymore, Nebraska. He attended Cathedral High School and graduated from the University of Nebraska. As a master pianist, he toured Europe with an orchestra, performed on radio programs, and very quickly earned an enviable reputation as an entertainer.

He abandoned all that prestige and answered God's call to serve the Church as one of Christ's priests. He studied at Saint Thomas Seminary in Denver and was ordained on December 19, 1942.

Father Sherman was assistant at Dwight and Lawrence until August 19, 1943, when he was appointed assistant, as well as organist and choir director at Saint Mary Cathedral. He was also associate editor of the Southern Nebraska Register. During the summer of 1944, he studied at the Pius X School of Liturgical Music in New York City.

After a short time as assistant in Wahoo and Falls City, Father Sherman was appointed pastor of Benkelman, Stratton, and Haigler in 1946. On April 5, 1955, he was named a Domestic Prelate, appointed pastor of Sacred Heart, Lawrence, and Dean of the Lawrence District. For many years he was chairman of the diocesan music commission.

Msgr. Sherman spent the last weeks of his life at Saint Joseph Hospital in Omaha, where he patiently bore the intense suffering of cancer. God relieved him of his suffering on February 7, 1965. Father Richard Madden, the renowned Carmelite author said: "Monsignor Sherman walked his Calvary—now he deserves his crown."
Ambrose Dowd was born on September 11, 1870, in County Roscommon, Ireland. He studied in Rensselaer, Indiana; Humboldt, California; and Saint Charles Seminary, Carthage, Ohio. On June 23, 1904, he was ordained by Archbishop Henry Moeller as a Precious Blood Father.

In 1913, he was sent to serve at Minden and its missions. After five years he was released by his religious congregation and incardinated into the Diocese of Lincoln on November 11, 1918.

Other places where he served were Steinauer from January 1, 1919 to July of 1929, Seward 1929-1931, Center 1931-1934, Davey 1934-1936, and Minden and Logan 1936-1940.

On August 22, 1940, Father Dowd was appointed chaplain of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Hospital in Falls City. God called him from this world on February 8, 1943.

Speaking at the funeral of Father Dowd, Bishop Kucera remarked that four outstanding accomplishments could be attributed to Father Dowd. The Bishop mentioned that he had directed the construction of the church and rectory in Steinauer; he had prepared many perfectly-trained Confirmation classes; he had a fatherly interest in young priests; and he had aided and encouraged two priests in their preparation for the priesthood. They were Father Lawrence F. Obrist and Father Lawrence H. Kalin.
Raymond Roh was born in Abie, Nebraska on October 9, 1932. He attended Saint John’s Seminary in Little Rock, Arkansas, and was ordained on May 16, 1959 at Saint Wenceslaus Church in Wahoo by Bishop James Casey for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Roh’s priestly service began at Sacred Heart in Lincoln (1959-1961). After that, he served in various capacities as Guidance Director, Principal, and Superintendent of Aquinas High School in David City (1961-1969). During that time he was also pastor of Assumption in Appleton (1966-1969). Next, came an opportunity for advanced studies at Creighton University in Omaha for one year. This was followed by the assignment of Administrator of Saint John in Prague, as well as Director of Religion at Neumann High School in Wahoo (1972-1973). Lastly, he was appointed Administrator of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Plasi while retaining care of the church in Prague (1973-1976).

In 1976, Father Roh was given permission to pursue a vocation at the Pecos Benedictine Abbey in New Mexico. In 1983, he made his profession of solemn vows as a Benedictine. In 1987, the Pecos Abbey was asked to make a new foundation in the Diocese of Monterey, and Father Roh was commissioned to begin this venture. That congregation later joined the Camaldolese Benedictines.

After a short illness, Father Roh passed peacefully on February 8, 2017. His funeral was held in California. A Memorial Mass took place at Saints Peter and Paul Church in Abie, Nebraska on April 8, 2017, with burial in the church cemetery.
Frank Flicek was born on August 16, 1908, in Badger, Minnesota. He studied at Holy Cross Abbey, Canyon City, Colorado, and at St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was ordained on May 27, 1939, in Crookston, Minnesota, for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Flicek's first assignment was as chaplain of the State Penitentiary complex. A month later he was appointed administrator in Burchard and Table Rock. On September 3, 1939, he began his duties at Wahoo. At the request of Bishop William Brady, former rector of St. Paul Seminary, Father Flicek served in the Diocese of Sioux Falls from 1940 to 1941.

On his return, Father Flicek was appointed pastor of Denton. On May 2, 1945, he began his long pastorate at Auburn, which lasted until his retirement on July 1, 1971.

Father Flicek completed his earthly pilgrimage on February 8, 1976. At the time of his death, Father Edward Tuchek wrote:

This soft-spoken person was a priest of understanding and compassion. Having lived through the depression, he was conditioned to serve all who suffered deprivation. He was dignified in cassock or in coveralls. He could swing the censer as well as a snow shovel. The Church was God's house. Father Frank kept it neat and in good repair. The children and the aged loved him. He could say with St. Paul, "I became all things to all men."
Charles Becker was born on February 25, 1875 in Westphalia, Germany. At age 11, he accompanied his uncle, Msgr. Joseph Ruesing, to the United States. He studied at Holy Angels School, West Point, Nebraska; Quincy College, Quincy, Illinois; and St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland. He was ordained on June 29, 1900 by Bishop Bonacum in Lincoln.

Father Becker's first assignment was as assistant in Hebron. In 1901, he was appointed pastor in Geneva, where he directed the construction of a school and rectory. His missions were Fairmont, Shickley, and Western. In Shickley he supervised the construction of a rectory.

On December 29, 1915, Father Becker began his pastorate at Sacred Heart in Lawrence. There, the school was built in 1917 at a cost of $45,000 and the church costing $105,000 was begun in 1923.

After serving the parish for 27 years, God relieved Father Becker of his burden on February 9, 1943. Monsignor Ferdinand Mock in his funeral sermon said:

“For 27 years Father Becker served this rural parish as intelligently and sympathetically, as cheerfully and efficiently, as any priest could. He loved the rural life. To him it was the natural way of living, the preferred way, because it held him close to God. He loved the song of birds, the color and scent of flowers, the rolling waves of the wheat field that yielded the soul’s bread of the Eucharist while it gave bread for the body of man. He could call upon the lightning and thunder and all the grandeur of God’s work to sing and bless the Lord. He knew how to say the Psalms.”
Thomas Eichenhofer was born on December 21, 1884. He studied at the seminary of the Precious Blood Fathers and was ordained as a member of that Order on May 14, 1931, in Carthagena, Ohio.

Two years after his ordination, Father Eichenhofer was sent to the Diocese of Lincoln. He was appointed as assistant at Saint Mary Church in Nebraska City and also as chaplain of Saint Mary Hospital in Nebraska City. In addition from 1934 to 1935, he served the people of Saint Paulinus Parish in Syracuse.

In 1935, his superiors transferred him to Perrysville, Pennsylvania. While he was ministering to the people of Perrysville, God summoned him to his eternal dwelling on February 9, 1952.

"The sacerdotal office of priests is conferred by that special sacrament through which priests, by the anointing of the Holy Spirit, are marked with a special character and are so configured to Christ the Priest that they can act in the person of Christ the Head."

(Documents of Vatican II, Priests No. 2)
Walter Sherry was born on July 19, 1905, in Canandaigua, New York. He studied at Saint Andrew Preparatory Seminary in Rochester, New York; St. Bernard Seminary, Rochester, New York; Belmont Abbey Seminary, Belmont, North Carolina, and St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul Minnesota. He was ordained June 2, 1934, by Archbishop Murray for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Sherry's first assignment was as assistant pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Church, Falls City. On January 20, 1935, he was transferred to Blessed Sacrament Parish, Lincoln. At the same time he was appointed the assistant director of the Catholic Social Service Bureau. On May 9, 1935, Father Sherry was appointed administrator of Harvard and Giltner. In 1942, his canonical status was changed to pastor of these two parishes.

When his health began to fail in 1945, Father Sherry returned to his parent's home in Canandaigua, New York. After a few months, God terminated his earthly apostolate on February 10, 1946, at age 40.

"You never know what will happen tomorrow: you are no more than a mist that is here for a little while and then disappears." James: 4:14-15.
Achille Ratti was born on May 31, 1857, in Desio, Italy. He was the son of a silk manufacturer. Achille was educated at the seminary in Milan and continued his studies at the Gregorian University in Rome. Father Ratti was ordained in 1879. He served as a parish priest for a few years and then was assigned to work in the Ambrosian Library in Milan. His talent was recognized by Pope Saint Pius X and he was named assistant librarian at the Vatican. Later, Father Ratti became head of the Vatican Library.

In 1918, was sent to Poland and soon became the papal legate to Poland under Pope Benedict XV. Three years later, Ratti was made a Cardinal and the Archbishop of Milan. After the death of Benedict XV in 1922, Cardinal Ratti was elected Pope and chose the name Pius XI. During his papacy, Pope Pius XI strove to aid the nations of the world in their recovery following World War I. He denounced the Nazi and communist governments. Pope Pius XI promoted the dignity of persons through his writings. He also established the feast of Christ the King, worked to ensure the sovereignty of the Holy See with the signing of the Lateran Treaty of 1929, and encouraged missionary work. Pope Pius XI is said to have “offered his life for the peace of the world” as he died on February 10, 1939. This act profoundly reflected his papal motto: “Christ’s peace for Christ’s kingdom.”
February 11, 1972  Rev. Paul John Hasler

Paul Hasler was born on January 28, 1883 in Munsterberg, Germany. He studied in Austria and at St. Mary Seminary, Cincinnati, Ohio. He was ordained on May 21, 1910 at Columbus, Ohio, by Bishop Hartley for the Diocese of Lincoln. He served at Hebron, St. Thomas Orphanage, Burchard, Gilead, Alexandria, Shubert, Salem, David City, Roseland and Blue Hill.

For three years, Father Hasler evangelized in the Diocese of Fargo, North Dakota. From 1959, to the time of his death, February 11, 1972, Father Hasler resided at Madonna Home.

February 11, 1898  Rev. Eugene Rhullier

Eugene Rhullier was born in Southern France. After leaving Europe, he went to the West Indies and Canada before coming to Nebraska. He was ordained in Omaha during the summer of 1878, by Bishop James O' Connor.

Father Rhullier served as assistant in Falls City and Hastings until 1882. On January 1, 1882, Father Rhullier was appointed the first resident pastor of Campbell. According to Father A. Rausch, “he had neither great learning nor any business ability. He attracted the people by his childlike simplicity and piety.” His parishioners referred to him as le tres-bon pere.

Father Rhullier left the diocese December 23, 1884, with the intention of becoming a Capuchin in Smyrna, Asia Minor. He did not reach that goal, but served the Church as pastor in Des Plaines, Illinois, until his death, February 11, 1898.
Father Odilo was born on June 4, 1870. He made his profession of vows in the Benedictine Order on July 11, 1890, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 29, 1895. He was sent to Lincoln as chaplain of Saint Thomas Orphanage from 1944-1945. He celebrated the golden jubilee of his sacerdotal ordination while he was chaplain of the orphanage.

On July 9, 1950, Father Odilo observed the diamond jubilee of his religious profession with a Mass of Thanksgiving at Saint Malachy Church in Creston, Iowa. On February 12, 1959, he died at Saint Benedict Abbey in Atchison, Kansas.

Lord, may those whom you have called from the darkness of this life, enjoy the radiance of eternal light!
Michael Merkl was born on December 24, 1854, in Dover, Indiana. He studied at Teutopolis, Illinois, and Saint Meinrad Seminary in Indiana. On April 11, 1886, he was ordained in Louisville, Kentucky, for the Diocese of Omaha. This was one year before the establishment of the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Merkl arrived in Omaha on May 6, 1886 and was assigned to West Point from 1886 to 1887. His next assignment was Fairbury 1887-1893. Since Father Merkl was stationed south of the Platte when the diocese was founded, he spent the remainder of his priestly life in the Lincoln Diocese.

Other assignments were Beatrice 1893-1906, Hebron 1906-1915 and Assumption in Juniata from 1917-1928. It was during his administration that the brick church in Assumption was destroyed by fire on November 20, 1919. Father Merkl was pastor when the new church was built. It was dedicated on June 15, 1922.

Father Merkl suffered a stroke on October 27, 1927. As a result, he resigned as pastor of the parish on July 8, 1928. Seven months later, he died at Saint Elizabeth Hospital in Lincoln on February 13, 1929.

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"Happy the man who stands firm when trials come. He has proved himself, and will win the prize of life, the crown that the Lord has promised to those who love him."

James 1:12.
Father Denis was born on February 7, 1845, in Williamsburg, New York. He was educated by the Benedictine Fathers at Saint Vincent Abbey in Pennsylvania. On July 16, 1864, he professed religious vows as a member of the Benedictine Order. He was ordained on September 19, 1868.

On September 20, 1874, Father Denis was sent to Saint Mary Parish, Nebraska City to replace Father John McGoldrich, who had been given a leave of absence to visit his relatives in Ireland. From Nebraska City, Father Denis visited the missions of Palmyra, Brownville, and Tecumseh.

After being transferred outside of the Diocese of Lincoln, Father Denis was stationed in various places in Alabama. He answered God's summons to his eternal dwelling on February 17, 1912, while he was stationed at Sacred Heart Parish in Cullman, Alabama.

GOD CARES FOR

THE BIRDS in the SKY

and the

LILIES in the FIELD!

Cf. Mt. 6:28
February 18, 1941  Rev. Emanuel Bouska

Emanuel Bouska was born on November 18, 1865 in Bohemia and ordained on July 14, 1889 by Bishop John Battatia.

On November 24, 1899, Bishop Thomas A. Bonacum gave him charge of the Bohemians in Crete. He supervised the construction of St. Ludmilla Church in 1890. From 1891 to 1892, Father Bouska was pastor of Wahoo. He then went to South Dakota where he spent the remainder of his priestly life. He died in St. Wenceslaus Parish, Tabor, South Dakota, on February 18, 1941.

February 18, 1975  Rev. John Henehan

John Henehan was born in Louisville, Kentucky, August 7, 1907. He studied at Saint Meinrad Seminary in Indiana, and Kenrick Seminary in Webster Groves, Missouri. He was ordained May 25, 1933, in Saint Mary Cathedral, Lincoln, by Bishop Louis B. Kucera.

Father Henehan’s first assignment was as assistant at Blessed Sacrament Church, Lincoln. His pastorates included: Benkelman, Stratton, Auburn, Curtis, Farnam, Wellfleet, Wallace, and Odell. From 1956 to 1959, Father Henehan was chaplain of Saint Joseph Villa, David City. Before retiring in 1968, Father Henehan was pastor of Milligan and Tobias for ten years.

God summoned Father Henehan from this earthly life February 18, 1975. Funeral services were in St. Thomas Church, Lincoln, with burial in Calvary Cemetery.
Ralph Goggins was born on June 14, 1898 in Chilton, Wisconsin. He entered the Dominican Novitiate in September of 1918. He studied at St. Rose Priory, near Springfield, Kentucky and at the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. He was ordained on June 17, 1925 in Washington, D.C.

He served as assistant chaplain at the National Soldiers' Home in Washington, and in parishes in New Jersey. In 1928, he became a member of the Eastern mission band with offices in New York City. Following that, he was appointed master of novices in River Forest, Illinois.

Father Goggins was sent to Lincoln and installed as pastor of Saint Teresa Parish on June 14, 1934. When the Dominicans were withdrawn from Lincoln at the end of that year, Father Goggins was named pastor of St. Pius Church in Chicago. After a few months, Father Goggins was appointed to take charge of the commissariate of the Dominican provinces of Argentina, Chile and Peru with his office in Buenos Aires.

After serving God as a Dominican Father for almost 42 years, Father Goggins was called to his eternal home on February 18, 1967 at St. Peter’s Priory in Winona, Minnesota.

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“Our actions have a tongue of their own; they have an eloquence of their own, even when the tongue is silent; for deeds prove the lover more than words.” Saint Cyril.
Joseph Bollard was born on November 13, 1909, in Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts. He studied at Saint Canisius College, Buffalo, New York; Oblate House of Philosophy, Newburgh, New York; and Oblate Scholasticate, Washington, D.C. He was ordained on May 30, 1939, by Bishop John M. McNamara in the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C.

In 1947, Father Bollard was sent to McCook where he served the missions of Trenton and Palisade. In Trenton he supervised the construction of a new church. On March 19, 1951, the first spadeful of earth was turned for the new building. It was a brick structure 98 feet in length and 34 feet in width with wings on either side of the sanctuary for sacristies. It was possible to complete the building for $56,000 because the people cooperated with Father Bollard by donating hundreds of hours of labor.

Father Bollard was transferred to Newburgh, New York on September 7, 1955. On February 20, 1970, while he was pastor of Saint Anthony Parish in Atlanta, Georgia, God summoned Father Bollard to his eternal home.

“Those that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of God.” Ps. 92:14.
Father Alphonse was born on January 17, 1887, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. He studied at Saint Procopius Seminary in Lisle, Illinois, and was ordained to the priesthood as a member of the Benedictine Order in 1914.

After serving at various places in Illinois and Wisconsin, his superiors sent him to Nebraska. Father Alphonse was assigned to Milligan on September 1, 1929. He remained there until January 15, 1931, when he was appointed pastor of Prague and the adjoining mission of Cedar Hill. He served these two places during the difficult years of the depression.

In September of 1934, Father Alphonse was recalled from the Diocese of Lincoln to become the procurator of Saint Procopius Abbey in Lisle, Illinois. After performing the duties of that office for eight years, Father Alphonse returned to Nebraska as the pastor of Assumption Parish in Dwight on December 29, 1942. He was transferred outside of the diocese during the summer of 1943.

Mathew Nemec was born on February 12, 1875 in Omaha, Nebraska. He studied at St. Benedict College, Atchison; St. Mary’s Seminary, Cincinnati; and St. Paul Seminary, Minnesota. He was ordained on February 4, 1899, for the Diocese of Omaha, by Bishop Richard Scannell.

Father Nemec was the first priest of Bohemian parentage who was born and ordained in Nebraska. After serving for two months at Petersburg, Father Nemec was assigned to Geranium, about 12 miles west of Ord, where he worked for six years. His life there required more sacrifice and endurance than is required of many missionaries in foreign lands. A potato, a slice of bread and black coffee constituted the everyday luxuries.

Attending sick calls in three counties often required a trip of 30 miles over roads that were unsafe for travel. Father Nemec recalled one time when he slept in a storage bin. He covered himself with wheat and when he awoke the next morning, he was covered with snow.

His request for admission to the Diocese of Lincoln was granted by Bishop Bonacum on March 1, 1906. Father Nemec served at Fairfield and Loucky 1906-1909, Abie 1909-1916, and then at Wahoo from 1916 to the time of his retirement in 1956.

During his 40 years as pastor in Wahoo, he was invested as a Domestic Prelate on May 20, 1937.

After serving the Church as a priest for 67 years, Monsignor died at age 91, on February 23, 1966. At his funeral, Bishop Casey remarked: “Monsignor Nemec was an outstanding priest. Men like him are the glory of the priesthood.”
Leonard Redelberger was born April 15, 1885, in Brookville, Indiana. He studied at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, and was ordained May 21, 1910, by Archbishop James J. Hartley for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Bishop Francis J. Beckman granted Father Redelberger’s request to transfer to the Diocese of Lincoln. On September 22, 1926, Father Redelberger was assigned to Saint Germanus in Arapahoe and Saint Michael in Oxford.

The parishioners of Saint Germanus in Arapahoe told their new pastor from Ohio that “we have big ideas out here in the West.” They explained that there were many farms available in the area, and that they would like to attract buyers. Father Redelberger assured them that he was interested in helping with their “big ideas”. Enlisting the help of the Knights of Columbus, Father Redelberger planned a campaign with advertisements in Our Sunday Visitor and other publications in the East.

After serving at Arapahoe and Oxford for five years, Father Redelberger returned to Ohio in 1931. There, on February 23, 1932, he completed his earthly pilgrimage at age 46.

But life to me is not a thing to waste words on, provided that when I finish my race I have carried out the mission the Lord Jesus gave me — and that was to bear witness to the Good News of God’s grace.”
William Kalin was born on April 28, 1933 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Upon completing his Philosophy and Theology studies at St. Thomas Seminary in Denver, Colorado, he was ordained to the priesthood on May 23, 1959 at St. Mary Cathedral in Lincoln by Bishop James V. Casey.

Father Kalin began his active ministry as Assistant Pastor at Holy Trinity Parish in Brainard (1959-1961). He was next assigned Assistant Pastor at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Falls City, as well as CYO Director of the Falls City Deanery (1961-1965). This was followed by the appointment as Assistant Pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Lincoln, and teacher at Pius X High School in Lincoln (1965-1968). Between June and August of 1968, he was put in temporary charge of Assumption Parish in Dwight.


Father Kalin returned to the place close to his heart, the Mission in Barquisimeto, Venezuela in 1984, remaining there until 2000. Next came the appointment to serve in the Diocese of Baker, Oregon where he ministered at several parishes (2000-2008). Father Kalin retired from active ministry and served as senior priest in residence at St. Peter Parish, The Dalles, Oregon (2008-2009). During the summer of 2009, he moved to Bonacum House in Lincoln and continued to help with the Spanish-speaking apostolate at St. Mary Parish in Grand Island, Nebraska.

Father Kalin passed away peacefully at Bonacum House on February 23, 2022. The Rosary and Mass of Christian Burial was at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln on March 3, 2022. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery in Lincoln.
James Dillon was born on August 11, 1924, in Chicago, Illinois. He studied at St. Mary Mission House, Techny; St. Procopius College, Lisle; and St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was ordained on May 31, 1952, in Saint Mary Cathedral, Lincoln, by Bishop Louis B. Kucera.

Father Dillon served as assistant at Saint Cecilia in Hastings, Sacred Heart in Lawrence, Saint Andrew in Tecumseh, St. John in Plattsmouth, and Saint Teresa in Lincoln. From May to August of 1959, he was temporary administrator of Benkelman, Stratton, and Haigler.

He was pastor of Saint Mary, Denton 1959-1960; St. Leo, Palmyra and St. Martin, Douglas 1960-1961; and of St. Mary, Wallace and Resurrection, Elsie from August 23, 1961, to the day of his death on February 25, 1965, in an automobile accident near Wallace.

At the time of his death, the Southern Nebraska Register published this comment:

"Death always comes as a shock. But when it comes without warning, without expectation, it is doubly so. Thus the death of Father James Dillon in an automobile accident stunned us all. Father Dillon was only 40. He was active, healthy, vigorous. Then — like a bolt of lightning — death.

"Father Dillon was loved by his people and his fellow priests. Always with a cheerful disposition, he was one to do the task assigned him without complaint. Wherever he was sent, he did the job. We will miss him. The Church can ill afford to lose such a priest."
Urban Landoll was born on October 28, 1898, in Reed, Ohio. He was ordained on May 26, 1927, in Carthagena, Ohio, by Bishop J. T. McNicholas as a member of the Society of the Precious Blood.

Father Landoll came to the Diocese of Lincoln on September 6, 1932, and was assigned to Curtis, Farnam, and Wellfleet. He served these missions until October of 1936, when he was transferred outside of the diocese.

On February 25, 1975, Father Landoll died at St. Charles Seminary in Carthagena, Ohio.

Walter Potocki was born on November 6, 1907 in Lisle, Illinois. He studied at Saint Mary Seminary, Orchard Lake, Michigan; St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota; and St. Procopius Seminary in Lisle, Illinois. He was ordained on April 20, 1935 by Bishop Kucera in St. Mary Cathedral, Lincoln.

Father Potocki served at St. Mary in Pilzno from 1935-1936, when he was given charge of St. Mary Parish in St. Mary. At that time it was called Smartville. During his 22 years as pastor he directed the construction of a new church and rectory. On September 10, 1958, he was appointed pastor of Seward. Just five months later, God called him from this life on February 25, 1959.

Bishop James V. Casey referred to Father Potocki as another Cure of Ars who gave 24 years of generous service to God’s people.
February 26, 1990

Msgr. Alphonse Lisko

Alphonse J. Lisko was born November 27, 1914, in Osceola, Nebraska. He studied at Crosier College in Onamia, Minnesota, and St. Procopius Seminary, Lisle, Illinois. On May 15, 1940, he was ordained by Bishop Louis B. Kucera in St. Mary Cathedral, Lincoln, Nebraska.

For five months after ordination, Father Lisko was in Tonkawa, Oklahoma, learning the work of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and the techniques used in street preaching. On returning to Lincoln, Father Lisko assisted in the direction of the Confraternity, the CYO, the Newman Club, and he served as chaplain of the State institutions. During the summer he was engaged in street preaching.

On July 20, 1942, Father Lisko was appointed pastor of Assumption Parish in Assumption, Nebraska. He was there when the third church in that parish was destroyed by fire on October 19, 1945. It was then his difficult task to direct the construction of a new building. Before it was completed, however, Father Lisko was appointed pastor of St. Mary Church in David City, on June 29, 1952.

Father Lisko was named a Domestic Prelate on April 5, 1955. Five years later, Monsignor Lisko was appointed Dean of the David City Deanery, a position that he held until his death on February 26, 1990.

In his homily during the Mass of Christian Burial, Father Roh described Monsignor Lisko’s influence during his pastorate of 38 years when he said: “Monsignor shaped other people, he shaped the parish; he shaped the community; he shaped Butler County.”

Father Danko began his priestly ministry at St. Joseph Parish, Beatrice. In 1956, he began summer school graduate studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He completed his graduate studies at the Catholic University of America in 1958. Father Danko later served the parishes in Davey, Abie, Linwood, Brainard, Loma, and Center (David City). During his various pastorates, he also taught at St. Joseph, Beatrice; St. Mary, David City; Assumption, Dwight; Pius X High School, Lincoln; and Aquinas High School, David City. From 1971 to 1994, Father Danko faithfully ministered to the members of St. Joseph Parish, Beatrice. He valued the Catholic education of young people and was glad for his parishioners' support of St. Joseph School in Beatrice. He also oversaw many building improvement projects for the parish church, rectory and school in Beatrice.

Father Danko retired from active ministry to his sister's home in Missouri. He met his eternal reward in Nixa, Missouri, on February 27, 2010. His funeral Mass and burial were held at St. Joseph, Beatrice, with the Most Rev. Fabian W. Bruskewitz as the principal celebrant. In the homily at the funeral Mass, Father Steven Major recalled a memorable All Saints' Day homily Father Danko preached in a few words, "Be a Saint!" Father Major reminded those at the funeral that "even those who strive for sanctity still need our prayers after they have died."
E. F. Donovan was born on December 30, 1902 in Roxbury, Massachusetts. He was ordained as an Oblate Father on June 10, 1930, by Bishop John M. McNamara in Washington, D.C.

Father Donovan was sent to the Diocese of Lincoln in September of 1931 and assigned to McCook. He served there until April 21, 1936, when his Provincial sent him to Duck Creek, Wisconsin.

After serving in God’s priesthood for almost 46 years, Father Donovan completed his earthly apostolate on February 27, 1976.

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Benno Mischke was born on April 21, 1912, in Buckman, Minnesota. He was ordained on June 6, 1936, by Bishop Louis B. Kucera in Saint Cecilia Church in Hastings, as a member of the Canons Regular of the Order of the Holy Cross.

After a teaching and pastoral assignment at the Crosier Seminary, Father Mischke was transferred to Hastings as Novice Master and Formation Director from 1943 to 1951. He returned to Onamia as editor of the Crosier Missionary Magazine and pastor in Vineland, Minnesota. He served two terms as the first Provincial of the American Province, 1957-1969.

Father Mischke suffered a heart attack in Phoenix on February 26, 1981, and died the following day. The Mass of Christian Burial was in Hastings. He was buried in the Monastery Cemetery in Hastings.
Ferdinand Mock was born on September 21, 1889, in West Point, Nebraska. He studied at the Pontifical Seminary of the Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. He was ordained on June 8, 1915, by Bishop James J. Hartley in Columbus, Ohio, for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Mock served as pastor of Presentation in Bellwood 1915-1933. He directed the construction of a new school building and started a four-year high school. He knew that the people could not afford to send their children to boarding schools, yet he was determined that the young people should get a Catholic education. On October 21, 1932, Father Mock was appointed the first diocesan director of the Catholic Rural Life Conference.

Father Mock was pastor in Crete from 1933 to 1940 when he was appointed pastor of Beatrice. He served there until his retirement in 1965. On June 4, 1943, Father Mock was named a Domestic Prelate.

On February 28, 1968, after 53 years of faithful service in the priesthood, God called Monsignor Mock to his heavenly home.

Speaking at the Mass of Christian Burial, Bishop Glennon P. Flavin said that before his last surgery Monsignor Mock wrote a letter. In it he stated that in case he did not survive, he wanted the Bishop to know that “all is in order, for the rest I am happy and at peace, with thanks to Almighty God, and to everyone for everything.” Bishop Flavin added: “May we all learn from the life of Monsignor Mock – his complete dedication to the Church and the priesthood, his joy, his happiness, his goodness of life.”