John Bernard was born in Germany on January 16, 1836. He was ordained on March 15, 1874, for the Vicariate of Nebraska. Father Bernard was one of the pioneer priests who served in the vicariate. For three years he visited the people in the Luxemburg Settlement.

Responding to the invitation of Bishop James O'Connor, the Franciscans from Teutopolis, Illinois, sent two priests – Father Ambrose Janssen, O.F.M. and Father Anselm Puetz – to the Vicariate of Nebraska in January of 1877. They established their monastery at Columbus.

These Franciscans had been expelled from Germany because of the Kulturkampf. They were commonly known as the German Franciscans. Since Father Bernard was a native of Germany, he soon became friends of the two Franciscans - Father Anselm and Father Ambrose.

Father Bernard entered the Franciscan Order at Teutopolis, Illinois in 1877. He made his final vows as Father Alexius Bernard, O.F.M. on July 9, 1881.

After serving God as a priest for 20 years and as a religious for 17 years, Father Alexius went to receive the reward promised to all those who leave home and country to serve Christ. He died on July 1, 1894 in Indianapolis, Indiana.
Joseph J. Kaczmarek was born on February 23, 1893, in Philadelphia. He studied at the Polish Seminary in Detroit and at St. Charles Seminary in Philadelphia. He was ordained on May 27, 1916, for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.


On February 25, 1944, Father Kaczmarek resigned his pastorate at Heartwell and was given a leave of absence to regain his health at his former home in Pennsylvania. On his return trip to Lincoln, he had a heart attack in Indiana. He died in Dyer, Indiana on July 1, 1944.

Father Kaczmarek had been appointed chaplain of Saint Thomas Orphanage on June 28, 1944. God called him, however, from this life before he began his duties at the institution. The funeral services were at Saint Mary’s, Smartville, Nebraska, and burial was in the parish of Saint Mary’s Cemetery.

"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.
Father Luke Mary Do Binh, CMC, son of Dominic Do Thanh Thu and Mary Do was born on the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, September 8, 1932, in Vietnam. He became a member of the Congregation of the Mother Coredemptrix in Vietnam and began his priestly studies. He professed his first vows during the Marian Year, 1954, on the feast of the Annunciation and made his final profession in 1958, on the same feast.


Father Luke Mary’s priestly ministries included serving as the Vocation Director of the Congregation of the Mother Coredemptrix (1977-1980) and Director of the House of Formation in Lincoln, Nebraska (1980-1982). He was the associate pastor at Queen of Vietnamese Martyrs Parish in Denver, Colorado, from 1982-1984. Father Luke Mary served as pastor of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Lincoln (1984-1993). He returned to formation work in his Community from 1994 to 1996, when he was director of Immaculate Conception Formation House in New Orleans, Louisiana. From 1997 to 2009, Father Luke Mary was stationed at the Shrine of the Presentation of Our Lord in Corona, California.

In July 2009, Father Luke Mary retired to the Fatima Residence for Priests of the Congregation of the Mother Coredemptrix. He died suddenly at the residence on July 1, 2012. The funeral Mass was held at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Shrine with burial in Resurrection Cemetery, Springfield, Missouri.
“The priest is called to match the fiat of Mary at all times, allowing himself to be led by the Spirit as she was.”

_Blessed John Paul II’s Letter to Priests (1998)_
Thomas Joseph Carney was born on December 25, 1848, in County Roscommon, Ireland. He came to the United States with his parents when he was a small child. He studied at Niagara University and was ordained on June 11, 1881, by Bishop Stephen V. Ryan for the Vicariate of Nebraska.

Father Carney’s first assignment was Norfolk Mission from 1881 to 1884. He served there for three years.

On October 14, 1884, Father Carney was appointed pastor of Saint John Church in Plattsmouth. During his pastorate the parish was divided and Holy Rosary Parish was established in the southwestern area of Plattsmouth in 1891.

In 1898, Father Carney was appointed the first dean of the Plattsmouth Deanery. After serving as pastor of Saint John’s for almost two decades, Father Carney died on July 2, 1903. He was buried in Ilion, New York.

On the second anniversary of his death, July 2, 1905, a memorial stained glass window honoring Father Carney was unveiled in St. John Church. It was given by the Bishop, priests of both dioceses that formerly constituted the Vicariate of Nebraska, and by other admirers of Father Carney. The window depicted the Good Shepherd.

“He is like a shepherd feeding his flock.” Is. 40:11
Alois J. Klein was born on February 6, 1866, in Frauenthal, Bohemia. He studied at the seminary in Budejovice, the German University in Prague, and completed his studies in Klagenfurt, Carinthia. He was ordained on June 15, 1889 by Bishop Joseph Kahn for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Klein came to the Diocese of Lincoln on November 3, 1889 and was appointed to Wahoo with Weston and Brainard as missions. On December 10, 1891, he was transferred to Crete with Wilber, Weston and Brainard as missions. On September 5, 1893, he was named the first resident pastor of Brainard where he remained for the rest of his life. For 65 years, Father Klein was associated with the Catholics in Brainard.

In order to create a cooperative effort in promoting the growth of the Church, Father Klein organized branches of the Catholic Workman. The branches in Brainard and Weston were established in 1896, those in Dwight and Touhy in 1897, and the branch in Loma in 1902.

Father Klein was named a Domestic Prelate on August 26, 1913, and a Protonotary Apostolic on August 19, 1929. He served as Vicar General under three Ordinaries—Bishops Bonacum, Tihen and O'Reilly. During the vacancies of the episcopal see, he was Apostolic Administrator in 1911 and again in 1917.

At the time of his death on July 2, 1954, Msgr. F. J. Kopecky remarked that wherever Monsignor Klein “set his hand and heart, his work, both spiritual and temporal, grew like a grain of mustard seed into living memorials.”
William Patton was born on May 1, 1869, in Raphoe, County Donegal, Ireland. He was ordained in Rome on July 23, 1893 by Cardinal Parocchi.

Father Patton was stationed in Massachusetts before being sent by his Provincial to Saint Patrick Parish in McCook, on February 1, 1910.

Besides being responsible for Saint Patrick's Parish, Father Patton with his assistants had charge of the missions at Thornburg, Zimmer, Imperial, Benkelman, Trenton and Stratton; and the stations at McGillan's Ranch, Mc Kellup's Ranch, Culberston, Palisade, Wauneta, and Haigler.

In March of 1913, Father Patton was transferred to Winnipeg, and was replaced in McCook by Father Andrew H. Kunz, O.M.I.

Father William Patton completed his priestly apostolate in this world on July 3, 1926.

"How precious is your kindness, O God! The children of men take refuge in the shadow of your wings."

Ps. 36:8
James Myles O’Gorman was born in 1804 in County Cork, Ireland. He made his profession of vows as a Trappist on March 25, 1841, and was ordained at Mt. Melleray in Ireland on December 23, 1843. Father O’Gorman came to the United States in 1849.

Father O’Gorman was one of the founders and the first prior of the New Melleray Monastery near Dubuque, Iowa. It was established on July 16, 1849.

On April 15, 1859, Father O’Gorman was named the Apostolic Vicar of Nebraska. He was ordained to the episcopate on May 8, 1859, and chose Omaha for the episcopal residence. Bishop O’Gorman was responsible for the Territories of Nebraska, Dakota and Idaho. Since the boundary lines were rather indefinite, the number of square miles included in the vicariate is not known.

Some of the greatest obstacles that the Bishop had to face were the lack of unity and the constant bickering among the settlers. The Platte River was the barrier separating two hostile factions. This sectionalism hindered many of the efforts of Bishop O’Gorman. The many responsibilities affected his frail health. Death came quite unexpectedly on July 4, 1874. At his funeral, Bishop Thomas Foley of Chicago observed that the unusual accomplishments of Bishop O’Gorman required wisdom, power, and industry not often found in one person.

When Bishop O’Gorman arrived in Nebraska in 1859, there was no church in Southern Nebraska, when he died in 1874, there were 14 churches.
Father Geary served in the Diocese of Lincoln for seven years. In 1881, Father Geary was appointed pastor of Central City in Merrick County. Beginning in November of 1881, Father Geary crossed the Platte River at least once a month in order to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for the Catholics in Aurora. There were about 40 families in this settlement. They had no building that was adequate for the celebration of the Liturgy.

After some months, the parishioners, under the direction of Father Geary, succeeded in acquiring three lots at the corner of Cole Street and Grand Avenue. Then in November of 1882, the public school building was offered for sale. The Catholics bought it and moved the small structure to the site they had purchased for a church. The building was renovated and became the first church in Aurora.

During the pastorate of Father Geary, the parish also acquired land for a cemetery. Because the first church in Aurora was named in honor of St. Francis, the cemetery also had the title, Saint Francis Cemetery.

After the establishment of the Diocese of Lincoln, the priests living north of the Platte River were gradually withdrawn from the missions they had been attending. For that reason Father Geary from Central City terminated his services in Aurora on August 23, 1888. He served in the Omaha Diocese for the remainder of his life. He died on July 4, 1911, in St. Joseph Hospital, Omaha.

“Our hopes are fixed on the living God who is the savior of all men.”

1 Tm. 5:10.
Wunibald Wolf was born on February 22, 1854, in Westphalia, Germany. He studied for nine years at the College of Padeborn. In 1876, he came to the United States and completed his studies at St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee. He was ordained on June 27, 1880 for the Vicariate of Nebraska.

Father Wolf was assigned to O’Connor City for eight months before being appointed pastor of Crete on April 4, 1881. Father Wolf directed the construction of an addition to the church in Crete and the erection of a steeple.

In June of 1885, Father Wolf was transferred to Friend. In the year and four months that he was pastor in Friend, he administered the Sacrament of Baptism to 59 persons.

On October 7, 1886, Father Wolf was made pastor in Grand Island. In 1887, he was named dean of all the parishes and missions in Western Nebraska. He served in Grand Island until 1914, when he retired to Saint Francis Hospital. He died there on July 5, 1918.

“Be steadfast and persevering, my beloved brothers, fully engaged in the work of the Lord. You know that your toil is not in vain when it is done in the Lord.” 1 Cor. 15:58.
Richard Steinemann was born on February 17, 1909, in Minster, Ohio. He attended St. Joseph College, Collegeville, Indiana and Saint Charles Seminary in Carthagena, Ohio. He was ordained as a priest of the Society of the Most Precious Blood on May 12, 1935, by the Most Rev. Joseph H. Albers.

Father Steinemann served in Ohio from 1935 to 1943. He was chaplain in the U.S. Army from 1943-1946. After his apostolate in North Dakota from 1946 to 1953, Father Steinemann was named pastor of Saint Mary Church in Nebraska City.

With Father Steinemann as chairman, a thorough study was made of the educational needs of Nebraska City and the surrounding area. It resulted in the construction of a central high school and a new elementary school. Father Steinemann directed both projects. The new schools were blessed by Bishop James V. Casey on September 25, 1960.

Further improvements of the educational system were made in 1963, when the two elementary schools in Nebraska City were joined. Grades one to five used the new Saint Mary School and Grades six to eight were housed in Saint Benedict School.

After giving a decade of his life to the Church in Nebraska City, Father Steinemann was transferred. God called his faithful priest to his eternal home on July 5, 1989 in Blue Grass, Minnesota.
"When this PERISHABLE NATURE has put on IMPERISHABILITY, and
When this MORTAL NATURE has put on IMMORTALITY,
Then the words of scripture will come true.

Death is swallowed up in victory.

Death, where is your victory?

Death, where is your sting?

Now the sting of death is sin,
and sin gets its power from the Law.

So let us thank God for giving us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Cor. 15:54-58
Anthony S. Gruesser was born on December 21, 1898 in Louisville, Kentucky. He studied at the Carmelite Seminary in Wisconsin; St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota; and The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. He was ordained on January 22, 1931, at St. Charles College, Cantonsville, Maryland by Bishop John M. McNamara for the Diocese of Lincoln.

After serving as assistant at Saint Mary Cathedral and as chaplain of the Newman Club, Father Gruesser was appointed pastor of Bloomington, Napanee and Riverton in 1932. In 1937, he was transferred to Assumption Church near Juniata. On July 20, 1942, Father Gruesser was appointed chaplain of the state institutions in Lincoln and auxiliary chaplain at the Air Force Base in Lincoln.


On March 20, 1972 Father Gruesser retired and went to live in his native city of Louisville, Kentucky. Less than four months later, Father Gruesser was called to eternity on July 5, 1972. The funeral services were in Holy Family Church in Heartwell, Nebraska and burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Lincoln.

"The temple of God is holy, and you are that temple" ICor. 3:17.
Victor P. Mlejnek was born on December 7, 1880, in Ratiskovice, Moravia. He studied in Straznice, Moravia; Bruno, Moravia; and in Baltimore, Maryland. He was ordained on June 21, 1910, by Cardinal Gibbons in Baltimore, Maryland, for the Diocese of Lincoln.

The young seminarian came to Lincoln because Bishop Bonacum visited the Moravian Seminary and pleaded for help. Victor left his homeland in 1909 and traveled with the Bishop to the United States.

Father Mljenek’s assignments were Plasi and Touhy 1910-1914, Deweese and Loucky 1914-1915, Touhy and Loma 1915-1919, Abie 1919-1932, and Weston 1932-1946. While in Weston, he was named a Domestic Prelate in 1935.


Using a pseudonym, Monsignor Mlejnek wrote about the life of the first immigrants in this area for a Czecho-slovakian newspaper. The articles were later incorporated into a book.

At the time of his retirement, Monsignor Mlejnek remarked: “I have always been obedient. I have been satisfied wherever I was. If I could help the Bishop anywhere, I did.”
Adolph M. Mosler was born on April 2, 1875, in Bauerwitz, Silesia, Germany. He studied at the Gregorian University in Rome and at the American College in Belgium. He was ordained on July 14, 1901, by Bishop Meerschaert in Louvain, Belgium, for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Mosler arrived in Lincoln on October 1, 1901, and was assistant at Abie 1901-1902, pastor of Wilber 1902-1907 and Odell 1907-1914. His other assignments were Crccte 1914-1932, David City 1932-1933, St. Teresa, Lincoln 1933-1934, Beatrice 1934-1936, Plattsmouth 1936-1937, St. Patrick, Lincoln 1937-1940, and chaplain of Saint Mary Hospital in Nebraska City 1941-1945.

On November 9, 1932, Father Mosler was appointed Vicar General of the diocese. On April 25, 1937, he was invested as a Domestic Prelate in Holy Rosary Church, Plattsmouth. On April 18, 1944, Monsignor Mosler was relieved of his duties as Vicar General and as chaplain of the hospital.

Monsignor Mosler completed his missionary apostolate on July 9, 1945. In his sermon during the funeral services, Monsignor Riordan praised the missionary spirit of the deceased. He said that Monsignor Mosler "was one of the dwindling number who came to the rolling prairies of this Midwestern State, leaving the land of his birth and all that was dear to him, that he might bring the good tidings of the Gospel where the harvest was great and the laborers were few."
Louis Jansen was born on September 25, 1880, in Antwerp, Belgium. He studied at St. Joseph College, Aerschot, Belgium; Courtrai, Belgium; and Catholic University, Louvain, Belgium. He was ordained August 19, 1906, by Archbishop Van den Branden de Reeth, as a member of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart.

Father Jansen received a dispensation from his religious vows and came to Lincoln on December 5, 1920. He served in David City 1920-1921, Arapahoe 1921-1924, Bloomington 1924-1928, Davey 1929-1930, St. Elizabeth Hospital 1930, Academy in Hastings 1930-1931, Chaplain for Mexicans in Lincoln 1932, Denton 1932-1937, St. Andrew’s, Osceola 1937-1938, Turnhout, Belgium, 1938-1941, and St. Andrew, Osecola 1941-1943.

During his visit to Belgium, Father Jansen was one of about 600 people who were in Belgium when the Nazis invaded that country. In June of 1940, Ambassador Cudahy petitioned the Germans for permission to have the Americans removed from the country. At first this was denied, but in October of 1940, 51 were allowed space on a German Military train to Lisbon. Father Jansen was among those released. He succeeded in getting passage on the Excambion. One night he was awakened by the ship’s doctor, who asked Father Jansen to conduct a burial service for a man who had died on board ship.

Father Jansen returned to Osceola on January 11, 1941. He died suddenly of a heart attack on July 9, 1943.
Anthony Ley was born August 22, 1919, in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He entered Brunnerdale Seminary in Canton, Ohio, and made his first profession of vows as a member of the Society of the Precious Blood on December 8, 1937. He was ordained at St. Charles Seminary, Carthagena, Ohio, on June 9, 1945.

Father Ley served in Michigan, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Colorado before being assigned as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Nebraska City in 1968. Under his supervision in 1972, the interior of St. Mary Church was redecorated and new furnishings added to conform to the directives of the Second Vatican Council. Four years later, Father Ley directed the celebration of the centennial of the parish on June 13, 1976.

During the eleven years of his pastorate at St. Mary, Father Ley worked zealously for the improvement of Catholic education.

After being transferred from Nebraska City in 1979, Father Ley served in Park Falls, Wisconsin, until 1982, and then in Hazen, North Dakota, where he completed his earthly pilgrimage on July 9, 1989. He was buried in the Community Cemetery at St. Charles Seminary in Carthagena, Ohio.

“We do not fix our gaze on what is seen, but on what is unseen. What is seen is transitory; what is unseen lasts forever.” (2 Corinthians 4:18)
Charles Keenan was born in 1917 to Jeremiah and Nora Keenan of Kellogg, Minnesota. He graduated from Kellogg High School and then studied at St. Mary College, Winona, and St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota. Father Charles Keenan was ordained a priest by Bishop Louis B. Kucera, at St. Mary Cathedral, Lincoln, on Holy Saturday, April 4, 1942.

During his years of priestly ministry, Father Keenan served as assistant pastor at Blessed Sacrament, Lincoln (1942); administrator of the parishes in Benkelman, Stratton, and Haigler (1943); and assistant pastor at St. Cecilia, Hastings (1944). In 1945, Father Keenan was appointed the first pastor of St. Michael Parish, Hastings. Ten years later, he was invested as a domestic prelate on May 17 and given the title “Monsignor.”

Later Monsignor Keenan served as chaplain of the Newman Center at UNL and the first pastor of the newly erected Lincoln Parish, St. Thomas Aquinas (1958-1962). Monsignor Keenan was pastor of Sacred Heart, Hebron (1962-1967), an associate pastor of St. Wenceslaus, Wahoo (1967); pastor of St. James, Mead (1967-1969); pastor of Blessed Sacrament, Lincoln (1969-1984); and pastor of Beaver Crossing and Utica (1984-1993). During his time in active priestly ministry, Monsignor Keenan was also active in the Knights of Columbus, CALIX, and the Diocesan Commission on Alcoholism and Drugs.

Monsignor Keenan retired to Bonacum House. He continued to serve as Chaplain of CALIX until 2006. In 2007, he moved to Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital where he passed away in 2010. The funeral Mass was celebrated by Bishop Fabian Bruskewitz at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ on July 14, with interment following at Calvary Cemetery, Lincoln. Monsignor Liam Barr was the homilist at the Mass of Christian burial. He reflected on Jesus’ washing of the Apostles’ feet at the Last Supper and connected this to Monsignor Keenan’s witness of service in his willingness to be built up by others and healing and assisting them in being built up as well.
Anthony Meyer was born on May 25, 1894 in Fremont, Ohio. He studied at St. Charles Seminary in Carthagena, Ohio. He was ordained on May 5, 1921, by Archbishop Henry Moeller of Cincinnati, as a Precious Blood Father. His first appointment was in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Father Meyer was sent to the Diocese of Lincoln on August 11, 1933, as pastor of Saint Benedict Church in Nebraska City. His pastorate there coincided with the most difficult years of the depression. There were no crops, the number of parishioners had decreased to about 60 families, and financial resources were practically nonexistent. To add to the difficulties, a windstorm took the roof off the church in 1936. With much hard work, and cooperation between the people and the pastor, the roof was replaced.

Father Meyer also had charge of the Peru mission. A monthly allotment of from $10 to $20 from the Catholic Church Extension Society helped pay the expenses connected with this mission. It also helped to pay the insurance, and complete the installation of the furnace and the belfry.

On February 1, 1937, Father Meyer was transferred to St. Joseph, Missouri. He was making plans to participate in the centennial celebrations at Saint Benedict's in Nebraska City, when, quite unexpectedly, God called him to his eternal home on July 9, 1956.

“You do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether at dusk, at midnight, when the cock crows, or at early dawn.”

*Mk. 13:35*
Theodore Saurer was born February 19, 1876 in Neneburg, Germany. After coming to the United States he joined the Precious Blood Society. He was ordained as a member of the Most Precious Blood Society on June 23, 1904 at Carthagena, Ohio, by Archbishop Henry Moeller of Cincinnati.

For the first decade of his priestly life, Father Saurer served the needs of the Church in Indiana. On October 30, 1914, he was sent to Nebraska City. There he was appointed pastor of Saint Mary Church, the third Precious Blood Father to hold that position.

Father Saurer established the building fund for a new church of Saint Mary in Nebraska City. He also was influential in planning Saint Mary Hospital in Nebraska City. In this project, Father Sauer worked with the Sisters of Saint Francis, the Chamber of Commerce and the physicians in the area. They not only planned the building, but also suggested methods to use in raising funds for this project.

After serving God as a priest for only 23 years, Father Saurer was called from this life on July 10, 1927.

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"God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son."

1 J. 5:11.

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Raphael P. Chonta was born on November 18, 1908 in Lloydell, Pennsylvania. He studied at the Franciscan Clericate in Pulaski, Wisconsin; St. Bonaventure, Allegheny, New York; and Holy Name College, Washington, D.C. He was ordained as a Franciscan on July 14, 1933, by Bishop Walsh.


Cornelius Smith was born on May 14, 1894 in Huntington, Indiana. He studied at St. Charles Seminary in Carthage, Ohio and was ordained on May 22, 1922, as a Precious Blood Father. He served in Indiana and Cincinnati for 16 years before being appointed pastor of St. Benedict Church, Nebraska City, from 1955 until his death on July 10, 1961.
Dominic D. Quinn, O.M.I. was born May 18, 1912. He studied at Saint Anselm’s College, Manchester, New Hampshire; Oblate Philosophy House, Newburg, New York; and Oblate Scholasticate, Washington, D.C. He was ordained on May 30, 1939, as an Oblate of Mary Immaculate.

On September 1, 1939, Father Quinn was sent to the Diocese of Lincoln. He was appointed as assistant pastor at Saint Patrick Parish in McCook. He replaced Father Vincent Newton, O.M.I.

Father Quinn was serving at Saint Patrick’s when the flash flood, moving swiftly and unexpectedly isolated McCook on April 18, 1942.

In addition to his duties in McCook, Father Quinn had charge of the missions of Sacred Heart and Saint Ann’s. At Sacred Heart Father Quinn directed the renovation of the church. This included the installation of a new ceiling and painting the interior of the church. At his other mission of Saint Ann’s, a new furnace was installed in 1945.

In 1945, Father Quinn was transferred to Jefferson, Ohio. He was stationed at Saints Simon and Jude Church, West Jackson, Ohio, when God called him to his heavenly dwelling on July 12, 1980.

“Christ must reign until God has put all enemies under his feet, and the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

Ps. 15:25-26.
Mitchell Michael Kaczmarek was born February 28, 1910, in Mt. Pleasant, Pennsylvania. He studied at the Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Orchard Lake, Michigan. On April 20, 1935, he was ordained for the Diocese of Lincoln by Bishop Kucera in St. Mary's Cathedral.

Father Kaczmarek was assistant at Ulysses for four months and at the Cathedral for one year. Less than two years after ordination, Jan. 3, 1937, he was appointed administrator of St. Teresa's in Lincoln. The parish was on the verge of bankruptcy. There was no rectory. His predecessor lived in the attic of the combination church and school. Inconveniences and lack of funds were daily realities for Father Kaczmarek. His rugged life included picking up coal along the railroad tracks.

As a result of hard work and many sacrifices the economic condition gradually improved. During his 43 years as pastor, a church, convent, rectory, gymnasium, and an addition to the school were constructed.

On June 7, 1955, Father Kaczmarek was invested as a Domestic Prelate. Monsignor's dedication to Catholic education was boundless. His enthusiasm convinced others to join him in supporting Catholic schools. Although he retired in 1980, he continued as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Pius X Foundation.

In his homily during the Mass of Christian Burial in St. Teresa's Church, Msgr. Myron Pleskac referred succinctly to Msgr. Kaczmarek as a good shepherd who knew his parishioners, including their home address.
Death is not extinguishing the light. It is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come.

Paul McElroy
Paul Ulenberg was born, December 17, 1895, in Detroit, Michigan. He studied at Manhattan College, New York; Mount St. Mary Seminary, Cincinnati, Ohio; and Benedictine College in Colorado. He was ordained, March 25, 1926, by Bishop Francis J. Beckman for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Ulenberg was stationed at St. Francis de Sales Church, Lincoln 1926-1927; St. Elizabeth Hospital, Lincoln 1927-1930; Davey 1930-1933, Cedar Bluffs 1933-1934, Aurora 1934-1935, Turkey Creek 1935-1949, and Geneva 1949-1968.

Father Ulenberg's hobby was photography. In 1936, he entered an amateur snapshot contest sponsored by the local newspaper. His entry won a national prize of $50. His photograph was a character study of Father James J. Gilroy, pastor of Fairbury. It featured him with a cigar in his hand. Mrs. Clavin Collidge was chairman of the board of judges for the contest.

Father Ulenberg retired June 19, 1968. He observed his golden jubilee, April 12, 1976. Three months later, July 14, 1976, God called Father Ulenberg to his eternal jubilee. At the time of his death Father Tuchek remarked that although Father Ulenberg was known for “his verbal fencing with bishops, priests, neighbors, and children”, this was merely a facade that camouflaged his sensitivity, piety, and faith.

“Blessed be God, who neither ignored my prayer nor deprived me of his love.” Ps. 66:20.
Leonard Knuth was born October 31, 1911, in Chwarzno, Poland. He studied in Chojnice, Poland and in Pelplin, Poland. He was ordained June 11, 1938 for the Diocese of Culmensis.

The Gestapo arrested him April 9, 1940. He spent five years in concentration camps. After his release from Dachau on April 29, 1945, Father Knuth was chaplain to displaced persons in Germany until 1950.


Father Knuth was killed in an automobile accident in Uniontown, Pennsylvania on July 15, 1977.

People who knew and loved Father Knuth said that he was never able to conquer the nightmarish memories of the five years in concentration camps, nor was he able to overcome his fear of uniformed authorities, including the military and police. At his funeral Bishop Norbert F. Gaughan, Auxiliary Bishop of Greensburg, said that Father Knuth was a good priest who started dying in the concentration camp at Dachau.

"We are afflicted in every way possible, but we are not crushed; full of doubts, we never despair. We are persecuted, but never abandoned; we are struck down but never destroyed." 2 Cor. 4:8-9.

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Joseph Blacha was born on February 10, 1876 in Seibersdorf, Silesia, Germany. He studied at the Salesian College near Turin, Italy; St. Trond's Seminary in Belgium; and St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland. He was ordained on June 21, 1909 by Cardinal Gibbons in Baltimore for the Diocese of Lincoln.


In 1913, Father Blacha accompanied Bishop J. Henry Tihen on his ad limina visit to the Vatican. During an audience with Pope Pius X on August 1, 1913, Father Blacha presented to the Pontiff a large, hand-lettered scroll of greetings that he had made.

In the spring of 1939, Father Blacha went to Poland to visit his relatives. In a letter written to Bishop Louis B. Kucera on October 28, 1939, he described some of the ravages of the war. For some years there was no possibility of returning to the United States. Finally in the summer of 1945, Father Blacha started his return trip, but he was killed in an automobile accident in Czechoslovakia on July 16, 1945.

“Remember I am coming soon! I bring with me the reward that will be given to each man as his conduct deserves.” Rv. 22:12.
July 16, 1902 Rev. William Choka

William Choka was born in Bohemia. He completed his education for the priesthood in Europe and was ordained there on July 5, 1866. With a true missionary spirit, Father Choka left his homeland and came to the United States. He served at Saint Procopius Parish, a large Bohemian congregation in Chicago.

While pastor in Chicago, Father Choka volunteered to serve the Bohemians in Saunders County on the condition that the Benedictines of Saint Vincent Abbey would assume charge of his parish in Chicago. After Bishop O'Connor and Archbishop Feehan approved the plan, Father Kocarnik, O.S.B. went to Chicago and Father Choka came to Pilsen. Father Choka was described as having a sterling-priestly character. He arrived in Pilsen in 1886. Shortly after his arrival, he was sent to Appleton to investigate an impasse that had developed between the pastor and some members of the congregation.

The difficulty was solved when a parishioner offered to donate a site for the church on the condition that the building would be moved to the new site. This offer appealed to both factions.

During Bishop O'Connor's serious illness and after his death, Father Choka was administrator of the Diocese. From 1885 to 1889, he made the trip twice each month from Omaha to Wahoo to minister to the Czech people. God called this faithful servant from this life on July 16, 1902.
Francis J. Kopecky was born on October 25, 1885, in Jicin, Bohemia. He studied at the Gymnasium in Jicin and at the Seminary of Kralove-Hradec. He was ordained on October 31, 1909 by Bishop Doubrava for the Diocese of Kralove-Hradec, Bohemia. He came to the United States in 1915.


Because of the scarcity of Czech-speaking priests, Father Kopecky had to do much traveling. He related that one Sunday afternoon when he got off the train in Tobias, a severe blizzard was raging. Nevertheless, two men were waiting to take him by wagon to baptize a dying child. After their hazardous trip, they learned that the child had been baptized and was quite healthy. It was 1:00 a.m. when Father Kopecky returned to the sacristy in Tobias, where he spent the night.

On February 14, 1945, Father Kopecky was named a Domestic Prelate. Monsignor Kopecky was appointed Diocesan Consultor October 3, 1952. After 51 years in the priesthood, Monsignor Kopecky retired August 1, 1960. God called him to his eternal home July 17, 1972.
July 17, 1982  Msgr. Joseph J. Przudik

Joseph J. Przudik was born February 9, 1910, in Czenstochowa, Poland. He studied at Quigley Seminary, Chicago, Illinois; St. Mary of the Lake Seminary, Mundelein, Illinois; and St. Mary Seminary, Baltimore, Maryland. He was ordained August 24, 1934, in St. Elizabeth Hospital Chapel, Lincoln, for the Diocese of Lincoln.


On February 14, 1945, Father Przudzik was named a Papal Chamberlain and on March 16, 1951, he was honored with the rank of a Domestic Prelate. During his priestly career, Monsignor Przudik served as Director of the Propagation of the Faith and also as Director of Calvary Cemetery and Diocesan Cemeteries.

Monsignor Przudzik was the author of numerous articles. He also gave a series of talks in 1945 for an interdenominational radio program entitled, “Religion Today”.

Kenneth Schnoebelen was born in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on September 2, 1920 to Fred and Amelia (Knebel) Schnoebelen. He had two brothers and three sisters. Kenneth received his grade school education at Saint Matthew School in Cedar Rapids and then graduated from Immaculate Conception High School, Cedar Rapids, in 1938. He attended Loras College, Dubuque, and Saint Mary Seminary, Baltimore, Maryland. His Excellency, Bishop Louis B. Kucera ordained Father Schnoebelen at Saint Mary Church, Lincoln on June 8, 1946.

Father Schnoebelen began his priestly ministry as an assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Parish, Lincoln. He was later assistant pastor at Saint Peter, Bellwood, and Saint Wenceslaus, Wahoo. In 1950, Father Schnoebelen was named pastor of Sacred Heart, Red Cloud. He was assigned as pastor in Osceola (1958-1964), Beaver Crossing (1964-1976), and Odell (1976-1985). In 1985, Father Schnoebelen retired to his family home in Cedar Rapids. He was called to his eternal home on July 17, 2003. His funeral was at Immaculate Conception Church, Cedar Rapids and he was buried at Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cedar Rapids. His Excellency, Bishop Bruskewitz, celebrated a Memorial Mass at Saint Gregory the Great Seminary, Seward, on July 30, 2003.

Father Schnoebelen served the Lord faithfully as a priest for fifty-seven years. He requested that the “Last Will and Testament of a Priest” be read as part of the homily at his funeral. Part of that will reads: “It was my greatest happiness on earth to be a Christian, a Catholic and a priest.” Father Maurice Current preached at the diocesan Memorial Mass in Seward. He mentioned that Father Schnoebelen’s “esteem for the Catholic Faith was evident in his celebration of the Liturgy.”
"Those who feed on Christ in the Eucharist need not wait until the hereafter to receive eternal life: they already possess it on earth, as the first-fruits of a future fullness which will embrace man in his totality."

— Pope John Paul II, "Ecclesia de Eucharistia"
John Gafron was born on November 6, 1850, in Liebenau, Diocese of Breslau. He entered the Franciscan Order at Warendorf in 1871. At the time of the Kulturkampf in Germany, he came to the United States on July 10, 1875. He was ordained on June 4, 1876, in Saint Louis as a member of the Franciscan Order.

After ordination, Father John was assigned to the Franciscan Monastery in Columbus, Nebraska. From there he served David City, Hollander Settlement, and Luxemburg from 1876-1878.

In 1878, Father John volunteered for the Indian Missions in Wisconsin. During one of his missionary trips, he contracted pneumonia. He never recovered fully from that illness.

Because of his lack of physical stamina, Father John was forced to discontinue his missionary trips. He was appointed pastor and superior in Bayfield, Wisconsin. God called this zealous missionary to a permanent home on July 19, 1897, at age 46 years.

“The virtuous man, though he die before his time, will find rest.” Ws 4:7.
Wenceslaus Hovorka was born on November 5, 1917, in Prague, Czechoslovakia. He completed his preparation for the priesthood in his native country and was ordained in Prague on June 29, 1941, by Bishop Elckner for the Archdiocese of Prague. Later he was sent to the Angelicum in Rome to work for a doctoral degree.

On November 21, 1951, Father Hovorka was welcomed in Lincoln as a refugee priest. He resided at Saint Clara Home in Lincoln. On November 27, 1951, Bishop Kucera appointed him to assist at Saint Mary Cathedral on Sundays and whenever his help might be needed.

Other assignments given to Father Hovorka were chaplain of Saint Joseph Villa, David City, and assistant at Holy Family, Lincoln. On April 23, 1956, he entered Alexian Brothers Hospital in Saint Louis. There it was found that his illness began in September of 1950, when he failed an examination for a doctoral degree at the Angelicum in Rome.

On July 19, 1976, God relieved his mental anguish when he called him home to heaven at Via Coeli Monastery, Jemez Springs, New Mexico. He was buried in the Monastery Cemetery.

"I consider the sufferings of the present to be as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed in us." Rm. 8:18.
John Baptist Miége was born on September 15, 1815, near Alberville, Upper Savoy. He professed his first vows in the Society of Jesus on October 15, 1838. He studied in Rome and was ordained there in 1847. Because of the revolution in Southern Europe, Father Miége came to the United States in 1849, to work among the Native Americans.

His first assignment was to a small parish in St. Charles, Missouri. Then he taught theology in Florissant and later at St. Louis University. It was only when he received a formal command that he accepted the appointment of being the first apostolic vicar of the Indian Territory.

Father Miége was ordained to the episcopate on March 25, 1851, in St. Francis Xavier Church, St. Louis, Missouri. Bishop Miége left St. Louis on May 17, 1851, and traveled to St. Mary’s on the Kansas River, where he established his residence. Later he moved to Leavenworth.

The Bishop made his visits to the various parts of his huge vicariate on horseback. In the spring of 1855, he began his visits to Nebraska.

After many requests, Bishop Miége was finally released from his episcopal office in 1874. He discarded his episcopal title and continued his priestly apostolate at Woodstock College, until his death on July 20, 1884.

“Bishops are the principal dispensers of the mysteries of God.”

*Documents of Vatican II, Bishops, No. 15*
Father Bede Cernik, O.S.B. was born on September 7, 1896, in Wahoo, Nebraska. He studied at St. Procopius College in Lisle, Illinois. He was ordained as a member of the Benedictine Order on May 21, 1921, in Chicago, Illinois. He served at various parishes before being sent to the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Bede was stationed in Pueblo, Colorado, when he was notified by his Provincial that he was being transferred to his native Diocese of Lincoln. On September 15, 1934, Father Bede was appointed pastor of Prague and Cedar Hill.

On September 23, 1934, St. John Parish of Prague and Sacred Heart Parish of Cedar Hill, gave a party to welcome their new pastor. The children of St. John’s School presented a program and Mary Ann Shimerka gave an address of welcome.

Father Bede served these two parishes until July 21, 1938, when he was recalled to the Benedictine Abbey in Lisle, Illinois.

After serving the Church as a Benedictine Father for fifty-six years, God called His faithful servant from this life on July 20, 1977.

“Well done! You are an industrious and reliable servant.” Mt. 25:21
Father Urban Schmitt, the son of Peter Schmitt and Mary Klehr, was born on July 19, 1919, in St. Martin, Minnesota. In 1943, he entered Crosier Monastery in Hastings, Nebraska, where he made his first profession of vows on August 28, 1944. After the completion of the theological program at the Crosier Seminary in Onamia, Minnesota, he was ordained by Bishop Louis B. Kucera on June 4, 1949 in Hastings, Nebraska.

After serving as an assistant pastor at St. Vincent Church in Elkhart, Indiana, he was named pastor in 1953 of St. Patrick Church in Highland, Nebraska, and St. Ann Church in Doniphan, Nebraska. From 1958 to 1973, he was assigned outside of the Diocese of Lincoln. When he returned in 1973, Father Schmitt spent the next 21 years as pastor in Grafton and McCool Junction. Father Schmitt dedicated the last five years of his life to substituting wherever his help was needed.

Father Schmitt was one of a family of twelve children. Nine of them lived to offer support during his lengthy battle with cancer. Three of them Father Silverius, Sister Clair and Sister Miriam followed Father Urban’s example of dedicating their lives wholly to the service of God.

In his homily given at the funeral of Father Schmitt, the Superior of the Crosier Community, Father James G. Moeglein, O.S.C. mentioned the outstanding memory that he had of Father Urban. Each evening after Vespers Father Urban would remain in the choir chapel and pray for an hour in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

The Holy Mass of Christian Burial was on July 22, in the Immaculate Conception Church in Hastings.

“When the tempest passes the wicked man is no more, but the just man is established forever.” - Prv 10:25
Life is no less beautiful when it is accompanied by illness or weakness, hunger or poverty, physical or mental diseases, loneliness or old age.

Terence Cardinal Cooke
- Shortly before his death -
October 6, 1983
Gioacchino Pecci was born March 2, 1810 in Carpineto to Count Lodovico Pecci and his wife Anna. Gioacchino was the sixth of seven sons in the Pecci family. He attended the Jesuit College in Viterbo, and the Roman College. He was uncertain of his vocation and decided to study theology, canon law, and civil law. After receiving his doctorate in theology in 1832, he was admitted to the Academy of Noble Ecclesiastics and began studying canon and civil law at Sapienza University. Cardinal Sala encouraged Gioacchino to become a priest after witnessing his good work in overseeing the city hospitals of Rome during the cholera epidemic in the late 1830’s. In 1837, Gioacchino discerned that he was called to the priesthood. That same year, he was made a domestic prelate while still in minor orders and was ordained to the priesthood by Cardinal Odeschalchi on December 31, in the Chapel of Saint Stanislaus on the Quirinal.

In 1838, Monsignor Pecci was sent by His Holiness, Pope Gregory XVI, to Benevento as a legate. Monsignor Pecci also served as delegate in Perugia (1841-1843), nuncio to Brussels (1843-1845), and Bishop of Perugia (1845-1878). He was made a Cardinal in 1853 and named Camerlengo in 1877. Cardinal Pecci was elected Supreme Pontiff after the death of Pope Pius IX in 1878, and chose the name Leo. Pope Leo XIII is known for his promotion of the study of Saint Thomas Aquinas’ work, encouragement of the advance of biblical studies, and his call to all elements of society to the true practice of justice and Christian charity in the economic realm. The Diocese of Lincoln was founded during his pontificate.

Pope Leo XIII faithfully served the Church as Pontiff for twenty-five years. He is said to have been “solemn and majestic, an intellectual of vast culture” who gave the world “a charge of courage and optimism” (L’Osservatore Romano, April 6, 1978). On July 20, 1903, His Holiness, Pope Leo XIII, died.
"Therefore, since it is certain by the doctrine of the Catholic Church, that the souls detained in purgatory are benefited by the prayers of the faithful, and especially by the august Sacrifice of the Altar, We think we can give them no more useful and desirable pledge of Our love than by everywhere increasing the offering of the pure oblation of the Most Holy Sacrifice of Our Divine Mediator, for the extinction of their pain."

(Quod Anniversarius, #7, Pope Leo XIII)
Frederick Uhing was born in November, 1839 in Cleve, Germany. He came to the United States in response to a request of Bishop O'Gorman for priests to work among the German immigrants in the Nebraska Territory. He studied at St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, and was ordained on May 8, 1867, by Bishop O'Gorman in Omaha.

Father Uhing was assigned to Arago as the first and only resident pastor. Laboring men from Buffalo, New York, who had organized a German Colonization Society, had settled in Arago in 1858. At one time the population was 1500. The number decreased when railroad transportation began to replace river transportation.

Father Uhing tried to direct the construction of a church in Arago. But, inexperience and his very kind and trusting disposition lead to bankruptcy. As a result, Father Uhing changed his residence to Rulo in March, 1868.

In July, 1868, Father Uhing was transferred to St. Charles Precinct near West Point, Nebraska. From there, he cared for the Catholics in Luxemburg.

Father Uhing served the Catholics in Nebraska for 25 years, before God called him from this life on July 20, 1892.
Bernard Sproll was born on August 18, 1851, in Bohlingen, Baden, Germany. He wanted to study for the priesthood but since his parents were poor, he had no opportunity to pursue that goal in Germany. After serving two years in the German Army, he came to the United States in 1873.

Bernard spent five years in Saint Meinrad, Indiana and then went to Bismarck, South Dakota. He was given charge of a school for Native American boys under the supervision of Father Jerome, O.S.B. It was Father Jerome who gave Bernard his first lesson in Latin.

He began his studies for the priesthood at Mt. Calvary Seminary in Wisconsin and completed them at St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee. He was ordained on June 24, 1887.


Father Sproll retired on October 30, 1932. He died July 22, 1934. At his request, interment was in Baden, Germany. In his sermon, Father John J. Hoffman said that Father Sproll "was generous and zealous in all matters concerning the faith and especially was his zeal manifest in the administration of the last sacraments."

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"Neglect not to visit the sick - for these things you will be loved."

Si. 7:35.
Joseph Koutek was born on April 10, 1863 in Lipkova, Voda, Bohemia. He was ordained on July 14, 1889 by Bishop John Fidelis Ballagtia in the Seminary of Saint Lucy in Chur, Switzerland. Four months later he arrived in the Diocese of Lincoln to begin his priestly apostolate.

On November 24, 1889, Father Koutek was appointed assistant to Father B. Kuppenbender at St. Francis de Sales Church, Lincoln. On July 29, 1890, he was transferred to Abie as assistant to Father J. Hovorka. After a short time, Father Hovorka returned to his native land of Bohemia and Father Koutek became pastor.

The need for a larger church in Abie was apparent. The parishioners had planned to cut the church in half and build a cruciform addition that would cost each member $6. Father Koutek convinced them that they should add $20 to the donation and erect a building of which they could be proud. The contract price was $3400. The man who made the contract absconded when he became aware that the church could not be built for that amount. The actual price was $5000 which meant each family was assessed an additional $10. This caused bitter feelings and many members became inactive.

All of these difficulties shattered the ideals of Father Koutek. At age 34, he completed his earthly pilgrimage on July 22, 1897 and was buried in Abie.

“Coming to perfection in so short a while, he achieved a long life;
His soul being pleasing to the Lord,
He has taken him quickly from the wickedness around him.” Ws. 4:13-14.
Patrick J. Phelan was born on March 8, 1877 in County Kilkenny, Ireland. At age 14, his uncle, Msgr. James Phelan of Prince Edward Island, Canada, encouraged him to come to America. He studied at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore and St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee, where he was ordained on June 21, 1903, for the Lincoln Diocese.

After ordination, because of impaired health, Father Phelan went to the Sanitarium in Fondulac, conducted by the Sisters of St. Agnes. In September of 1903, he came to Lincoln. He was stationed in Indianola, Exeter, Grafton and the Ursuline Convent in York until 1907, when a lung infection made it necessary to enter St. Francis Hospital in Colorado Springs. When tuberculosis attacked both lungs he was transferred to St. Joseph Hospital in Denver.

In 1908, Father Phelan was appointed chaplain of the Orphanage in Pueblo, Colorado. On May 19, 1933, Bishop Kucera attended the 25th anniversary celebration of Father Phelan's appointment as chaplain of the orphanage. The Franciscan Sisters from St. Louis, who were in charge of the orphanage, served a dinner in his honor at the Vail Hotel. Sixty priests participated in the celebration.

Father Phelan was chaplain of the orphanage in Pueblo until 1942, when he entered Saint Anthony Hospital in Saint Louis. He died July 22, 1955.
Edmund J. Navratil was born on April 4, 1927, in Loma, Nebraska. He studied at Saint Procopius Seminary, Lisle, Illinois; Saint Paul Seminary, Saint Paul, Minnesota; and Saint Meinrad Seminary, St. Meinrad, Indiana. He was ordained on June 12, 1952, in Saint Luke Church, Loma, Nebraska, by Bishop Louis B. Kucera.

On June 29, 1952, Father Navratil began his duties as assistant at Assumption Church in Dwight. He was also superintendent of Assumption elementary and secondary schools, director of music and coach of the athletic teams. His basketball team was a runnerup in the state basketball tournament in 1955.

After only four years of serving the Church in the priesthood, Father Navratil was killed instantly in the crash of his light plane on Monday afternoon, July 23, 1956. The accident occurred near Loma.

In his sermon, Monsignor A. J. Lisko said that many people may ask, “Why?” Monsignor explained that “The answer to our question is simply, ‘God’s Holy Will.’ He who decrees that not even a sparrow shall fall to the ground without His knowledge, in His incomprehensible judgements and unsearchable ways has so much more care for His noblest creature, man ...Like the grain that is sown in the field and is left to rot and die before it springs up as fruit a hundredfold, so the seeds that Father Navratil has sown will spring up after his death and bring forth fruit.”
Father Casimir Seitz, O.S.B. was born on August 13, 1829 in Pirkach, Bavaria. He received his basic education in Germany before he came to the United States. On August 11, 1856, he made his profession of vows as a member of the Benedictine Order in Saint Vincent’s Abbey in Pennsylvania.

The young Benedictine completed his preparation for the priesthood at the Benedictine Priory in Leavenworth, Kansas. He was ordained on April 26, 1857, by Bishop John Baptist Miége, S.J. Father Casimir had the distinction of being the first young man to be ordained in the Vicariate of the Indian Territory that was established in 1851.

At the time of his ordination, Father Casimir could not give a sermon in English. It required much time and practice on his part to learn a new language.

About 1859, Father Casimir began his trips from Kansas to Nebraska City. The hardships of traveling in the scorching heat of summer and the frigid temperatures in the winter soon affected his health and probably contributed to his untimely death on July 23, 1867, a few weeks before his thirty-eighth birthday.

“Our brothers already after enduring their brief pain, now drink of ever-flowing life, by virtue of God’s covenant.” 2 Mc. 7:36.
Father John Kraus was ordained in 1936 as a priest of the Precious Blood Society. On September 7, 1949, he was appointed pastor of the oldest parish in the Diocese of Lincoln, Saint Benedict in Nebraska City. He came to Nebraska in the prime of his life with valuable experience as pastor of St. Joseph Church, Dayton, Ohio.

One of his first duties was to direct the construction of a new school. After careful planning the construction was begun and it was completed on October 2, 1951. Father Kraus also directed the landscaping of the parish grounds.

After months of suffering with cancer, he resigned his pastorate in June, 1955, and died on July 25, 1955.

In his sermon Father Kilian Dreiling, C.P.P.S. said that Father Kraus has not ceased to be a priest. "He will not stop interceding for his parishioners. Now he sees their needs more clearly. He will continue to love your children and your sick."

Bishop Kucera said: "At first we are perplexed and confused when someone so young is taken, but Our Lord was taken young. He charted the path of an early death. Father Kraus has given us a lesson on the value of suffering and resignation. He lived a short period but fulfilled a long time."

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"I will spend my heaven doing good upon earth." Saint Therese of the Child Jesus.
Felix John Bronnenkant was born on November 10, 1865 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He studied at Sacred Heart College, St Lawrence College and St. Francis Seminary in Wisconsin. He completed his studies at Saint Meinrad Seminary in Indiana. He was ordained on March 12, 1892 by Bishop F. S. Chatard in Indianapolis, for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Among the places where Father Bronnenkant served were Saint Joseph's, Paul; Presentation, Bellwood; Saints Peter and Paul, Falls City; St. Thomas Orphanage, Lincoln; Saint Wenceslaus, Wilber; Saint Mary's Denton; Saint Mary's, Odell; and Saint Elizabeth Hospital, Lincoln.

In 1903, Father Bronnenkant went to reside in Omaha. After some twenty years, he returned to Lincoln. In 1953, he established his residence in Saint Joseph Hospital, Omaha. He died there on July 26, 1956.

The funeral services for Father Bronnenkant were held in Saint Mary Cathedral, Lincoln. Monsignor Thomas M. Kealy offered the Holy Mass, and Monsignor Clarence J. Rirodan delivered the sermon. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Lincoln.

"The Lord lifts up all who are falling
And raises up all who are bowed down."
Ps. 145:14
Wenceslaus Supik was born on September 28, 1868, in Baltimore, Maryland. He entered the novitiate of the Redemptorist Congregation in Annapolis and made his profession of religious vows as a Redemptorist on August 28, 1889. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 14, 1894.

For a number of years, Father Supik was assistant in a Bohemian parish in New York City, and then in a Bohemian parish in Baltimore, Maryland. He then decided that he wanted to change his status to a diocesan priest.

Father Supik received a dispensation from his religious vows on August 7, 1915. On October 3, 1915, he requested admission to the Diocese of Lincoln. He told Bishop J. Henry Tihen that he wished to work among the Bohemians, and added that he could also work among the Germans since he was proficient in that language.

In 1916, Father Supik was appointed to Milligan. He recorded his first Baptism in Milligan on April 26, 1916. Between that date and December 14, 1925, Father Supik administered the Sacrament of Baptism to 207 persons.

In December of 1925, Father Supik was transferred to Prague. He died there on July 26, 1926.

“Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which is immovable, which forever stands.”

Ps. 125:1
Joseph John McCausland was born, December 23, 1905, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He studied at Saint Joseph Seminary in Callicoon, New York; Our Lady of Mount Carmel College, Washington, D.C.; Saint Francis College, Loretta, Pennsylvania; and Saint Bonaventure Seminary in New York. He was ordained, August 24, 1934, in the Chapel of Saint Elizabeth Hospital, Lincoln, for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father McCausland was an accomplished organist and a master of Gregorian Chant. His assignments were: chaplain of Saint Thomas Orphanage, Lincoln 1934-1935; administrator of Superior and Nelson 1935, chaplain of Saint Mary Hospital, Nebraska City 1936; substitute at Saint Vitus Church, Touhy 1937; and administrator of Holy Trinity Church, Blue Hill.

In writing to the Romans, Saint Paul acknowledged the inner struggle between good and evil that he experienced. He told them “that every time I want to do good it is something evil that comes to hand. In my inmost self I dearly love God’s Law, but I can see that my body follows a different law that battles against the law which my reason dictates.” Rm. 7:21-23.

Father McCausland probably experienced similar sentiments after he left the active ministry and resided in Philadelphia. God, in his goodness, used Father James Mehan of Saint Joachim Parish, Philadelphia, as his instrument in restoring Father McCausland’s conviction that he was “a priest forever”. Father McCausland died, July 25, 1960, and was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery, Yeadon, Pennsylvania.

“’The Lord lifts up all who are falling and raises up all who are bowed down.’ Ps. 145:14
Father Permine Koumly, O.S.B. was born on February 21, 1840, in Bootzheim, Alsace. He entered the Benedictine Order and began his preparation for the priesthood at Saint Vincent Abbey in Pennsylvania. On November 13, 1863, he made his profession of religious vows as a Benedictine. He completed his preparation for the priesthood at the Benedictine Monastery in Leavenworth Kansas. He was ordained there on August 19, 1865 by Bishop John Baptist Miege, S.J.

From August, 1868 to February 1869, Father Permine was assistant at Saint Benedict Church in Nebraska City. From there he traveled on horseback to care for the Catholics in Lincoln. He also attended Plattsmouth, Tecumseh, and Turkey Creek (Steinauer).

Father Permine was an avid collector and a bird-watcher. In 1892, he was elected a member of the American Ornithologists' Union. He spent the last years of his life as master of novices and director of the clericate.

Peter Beckman, O.S.B. in his book, Kansas Monks, wrote: "Abbot Innocent held him in high regard because he was a good religious." Father Permine died on July 27, 1904.
Thomas A. Kadlec was born on April 23, 1909, in Pisek, North Dakota. He joined the Canons Regular of the Order of the Holy Cross, commonly known as the Crosiers. He was ordained on June 6, 1941, by Bishop Louis B. Kucera in the Crosier Chapel, Hastings, Nebraska.

Father Kadlec served in Southern Nebraska from 1944 to the time of his death in 1966. He was prior of the Crosier Monastery in Hastings from 1944-1947.

On October 3, 1947, Father Kadlec was appointed pastor of Saint Joseph Church, Friend. The following year on August 10, 1948, he was transferred to Saint Helena Church in Grafton, where he remained until his death.

While visiting his sister, Mrs. Mary Hamerlik, in Wahpeton, North Dakota, Father Kadlec had a heart attack and died on July 28, 1966. Bishop James V. Casey offered the Holy Mass for him in Grafton. The Bishop noted that Father Kadlec had recently celebrated the silver anniversary of his ordination, and that now he was being rewarded by God for those years of priestly service. Bishop Casey described Father Kadlec as “a humble, quiet priest, concerned about his people and their problems.”
Clement A. Siwinski was born March 21, 1911 in Calumet City, Illinois. He studied at Quigley Seminary, Chicago; St. Mary of the Lake, Mundelein; and Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, Michigan. On December 8, 1936, he was ordained by Bishop Louis B. Kucera in St. Mary Cathedral, Lincoln.

Following appointments in Brainard, Denton and Cheney, Father Siwinski volunteered as a chaplain in the United States Army Air Corps. He began serving on September 3, 1940. In 1942, he had the honor of offering the first Holy Mass in the Pentagon. He was instrumental in starting chaplain services in 18 countries, including North Africa, the Holy Land, China, Colombia, and Canada.

On May 5, 1945, Father Siwinski arrived in Europe, just in time for the end of World War II. The lieutenant colonel facetiously remarked: "Hitler heard that Clem was there and decided to end the war." After serving in the army for eleven years, Father Siwinski retired on August 18, 1951.

After returning to the Diocese of Lincoln, he served at St. Thomas Orphanage, Julian and Dunbar, Dawson and Shubert, Red Cloud and Riverton before being appointed to Sutton. He was pastor of Sutton until retiring from the active ministry on June 13, 1992.

For more than 56½ years, Father Siwinski served as a minister of Christ. On July 30, 1993, God summoned him from this life.

Banish the fear of death, and think of the eternal life that follows it. That will show people that we live our faith. (Cyprian, "Sermon on Man's Mortality")
HE LOVES US and
HAS WASHED AWAY OUR SINS
WITH HIS BLOOD.

Rv. 1:5
July 30, 2000

Frank Machovec, son of Francis A. Machovec and Helen Fischer was born on October 22, 1928, in Saunders County, Nebraska. He was baptized on November 4, 1928, in St. Wenceslaus Church in Wahoo, by Monsignor Matthew Nemec. After graduation from Wahoo High School, he studied at St. Thomas Seminary for three years before joining the Armed Forces and being assigned to Korea.

His three years of experience in Korea convinced him that God was calling him to the priesthood. Accordingly he completed his theological studies in St. Paul Seminary in Minnesota. Bishop James V. Casey ordained him on May 23, 1959 in St. Mary Cathedral, Lincoln.


In his sermon, Father Paul Sheehy emphasized the great appreciation that Father Machovec had for his vocation to Christ’s priesthood. Father Machovec often said that offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass was the most important act of the entire day. He was truly a priest with a great love for the Eucharist.

"Only faith can guarantee the blessings that we hope for, or prove the existence of the realities that at present remain unseen." Heb. 11:1-2
Father Richard Rego was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on September 2, 1934, to Carmine and Lillian Rego. He graduated from Southeast Catholic High School in Philadelphia in 1952. Two years later, he attended Christ the King Seminary in Olean, New York. After a period of discernment, Father Rego resumed his seminary studies at Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut, and was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Tucson on June 4, 1983.

Father Rego served as an associate pastor in Tucson and Miami, Arizona, between 1983 and 1985. Then he studied at the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas in Rome, Italy, from 1985 to 1987. There he earned a licentiate in Sacred Theology. Upon returning to the United States, Father Rego continued his studies at the Pope John Paul II Institute for Marriage and Family. Through the years, Father Rego gave many parish missions in the United States, wrote for various Catholic publications, and authored four written works. From June of 1994 to May of 1995, Father Rego exercised his priestly ministry in Hastings, Nebraska. He was appointed parochial vicar at Saint Michael Church and taught in the Hastings Catholic Schools. In 1995, he returned to the Diocese of Tucson and was chaplain to the Latin Mass Community until his death on July 30, 2007. Monsignor Timothy Thorburn celebrated the funeral Mass in Tucson on August 4, 2007.

A few months before his death, Father Rego wrote, “We must always maintain a healthy longing for heaven. This is not a morbid death wish! Rather, it is a lively desire to be with Our Lord in heaven. Heaven is our final destination and, as Vatican II teaches, we are on our pilgrim journey to be with Christ, Our Lord, for all eternity.”
Frederick H. Schaeper was born on September 18, 1888, in Burkettsville, Ohio. He joined the Precious Blood Society and was ordained to the priesthood on June 1, 1918 in Carthage, Ohio by Bishop Henry Moeller of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Three years after his ordination, Father Schaeper was sent to the Diocese of Lincoln. He was named pastor of Curtis with Wallace and Elsie as missions in 1921. In addition, Father Schaeper had charge of several stations: Grant in Perkins County, the Bohemian Settlement in Hayes County, Wellfleet in Lincoln County, and Dickens in Lincoln County.

In 1923, Father Schaeper became the first resident pastor of Wallace with the mission of Elsie and stations at Grant and Venango. He directed the construction of the first parochial residence in Wallace.

After caring for the Catholics in Western Nebraska for fourteen years, Father Schaeper was transferred outside of the Lincoln Diocese. He was stationed in Oklahoma and then North Dakota. God called this missionary priest from this life on July 30, 1946.

"You will show me the path to life,  
fullness of joy in your presence,  
the delights at your right hand forever."  
_Ps. 16:11_
Father Emmanuel served for 21 years, 1926-1947, as a missionary in Northern China. While there he established a seminary in the Shantung Province in Northeast China. His efforts came to an end when the Japanese invaded the territory. Father Emmanuel was put in a concentration camp and suffered there for two and one-half years.

At the end of World War II, Father Emmanuel returned to the United States. Motivated by his zealous missionary spirit, Father Emmanuel tried to return to China in 1948, but he was prevented by the communists.

On September 15, 1951, Father Emmanuel was sent by his Provincial to be the assistant pastor of Saint Patrick Parish in Lincoln. With his usual enthusiasm, Father Emmanuel served the people of Saint Patrick’s until June 20, 1952, when he was transferred to Chicago.

Father Emmanuel completed his priestly work of this life on July 31, 1979 at Our Lady of the Angels Seminary, Quincy, Illinois.

"You have given me your saving shield; your right hand has upheld me, and you have stooped to make me great."

Ps. 18:31.