Father Cyril, the son of Edward Foppe and Josephine Jansen, was born on October 4, 1921. He had three brothers and four sisters. He attended St. Augustine Elementary and St. Dominic High School both in Breese, Illinois. From 1938 to 1943, he was a student at St. Henry Preparatory Seminary. Since he wished to become a member of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate he entered St. Peter’s Novitiate in Mission, Texas where he made his first vows in 1944. From 1944 to 1950, he studied philosophy and Theology at DeMazenod Scholasticate in San Antonio, Texas. He was ordained a priest at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri on June 7, 1949 by Cardinal Joseph Elmer Ritter.

Father Cyril served at various parishes in Illinois, South Dakota and Minnesota before being assigned to St. Patrick Church in McCook in 1969. His dedicated services during the eight years that he served as pastor in McCook were greatly appreciated by the parishioners. Their gratitude was demonstrated in many ways. Just one will be mentioned. Although 22 years had passed since he was transferred from McCook, the parishioners were preparing a Jubilee celebration for his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. They were very disappointed when they learned that God had called him from this world before they had an opportunity to celebrate.

The Holy Mass of Christian Burial was offered in the Shrine Church of Our Lady of the Snows on Saturday, August 7, 1999, in Belleville, Illinois.

"Mother Church rejoices that she has within herself many men and women who pursue the Savior more closely” by practicing the evangelical counsels. - (LG 42)
Raymond Hain was born on August 3, 1923 in David City, Nebraska. He attended Assumption High School in Dwight, and Saint Procopius Seminary in Lisle, IL, and Saint Paul Seminary in Saint Paul, MN. Father Hain also attended Catholic University in Washington, D.C., Laval University in Quebec, and the Angelicum University in Rome, Italy.

Father Hain was ordained in 1948 at Saint Mary Church in David City by Bishop Louis B. Kucera. He faithfully lived out his priesthood by serving the people of God in the parishes of Elmwood, Hastings (Saint Cecilia), Lincoln (Sacred Heart and Saint Thomas Aquinas Newman Center), Manley, McCook (Saint Patrick, Saint Ann, and Sacred Heart), Tecumseh, Plattsmouth, and Saint Mary.

A very gifted priest, the Lord also called him to serve as a chaplain (reservist) with the U.S. Navy, assistant Chancellor, assistant chaplain at Saint Elizabeth Hospital, and Spiritual Director at Saint Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward. In the 1950's, he was vice rector for student personnel at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. In 1959, Father Hain organized the new Aquinas High School in David City. During Vatican II, Father Hain was invited to attend the fourth session as an observer.

In 1991, Bishop Flavin invested Father Hain as a Prelate of Honor, with the title of Monsignor received from His Holiness, Pope Saint John Paul II.

A rosary was held on August 7 in the Cathedral of the Risen Christ. Bishop James Conley celebrated the funeral Mass on August 8 at the Cathedral, followed by burial in Calvary Cemetery in Lincoln.
William Haley was born in 1882. He joined the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and was ordained to Christ’s priesthood in 1914.

After nine years of priestly service in Massachusetts, Father Haley was appointed chaplain at Saint Catharine Hospital in McCook. He served there from 1923 to 1924, when he was transferred to Saint Mary of the Lake Church in Bailey’s Harbor, Wisconsin.

In 1927, Father Haley returned to the Diocese of Lincoln as pastor of Saint Teresa Church in the Capital City. The following year he was transferred to Tewksbury, Massachusetts.

In 1936, Father Haley was appointed to Saint Augustine Church, Germiston, Transvaal in South Africa. Germiston is located near Johannesburg in the state of Transvaal. His missionary field included such territories as Basutoland, Orange River, and Natal. The large parishes in Transvaal were made up principally of English-speaking people.

In his letter of appointment, his superior told Father Haley that he was going to Africa because of his excellent record as a religious and a missionary. He concluded, “This assignment is a mark of my sincere esteem for you.”

God called this dedicated missionary from this life August 1, 1947.

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“Through Christ and in Christ, the riddles of sorrow and death grow meaningful.” Documents of Vatican II, Ch. 1, No. 22.
Lawrence Obrist was born on February 10, 1908, in Steinauer, Nebraska. He studied at Saint Benedict College, Atchison, Kansas, and Saint Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was ordained on May 5, 1932, in Saint Mary Cathedral, Lincoln, by Bishop Louis B. Kucera.


On February 15, 1950, he was invested as a Domestic Prelate. At that time, Bishop Kucera observed that Monsignor Obrist had pioneered in the organization of the CYO, the CCD, the sodalities, and the annual youth congress.

Monsignor Obrist celebrated his 25th sacerdotal jubilee on April 17, 1957. Abbot Leonard Schwinn, O.S.B. spoke during the Holy Mass of Thanksgiving. He developed the theme that society will not be greatly improved until most of its members become saints. The Abbot pointed out that this must be the goal of priests in their personal lives and in their work with others.

After serving the Church as a priest for 39 years, Monsignor Obrist answered God's call to eternity on August 3, 1971.
Father Egbert Fischer, O.F.M. was a member of the Franciscan Friary in Cincinnati, Ohio. His Provincial sent him to be the assistant pastor of Saint Francis de Sales Parish in Lincoln in 1924.

Father Egbert and Father Ildephonse were the last two Franciscans who served at this national parish for the German-speaking Catholics of the Capital City. On March 25, 1926, the parishioners gave a farewell party for the Franciscans.

At that gathering Patrick Barton spoke of the dedicated services of the Franciscans who took charge of this national parish when it was deeply in debt. Through their deprivations and efficient management, the Franciscans were leaving it as a prosperous and flourishing parish.

Conrad Schatz, representing the Men’s Social Club, gave the Franciscans a monetary gift. The Ladies’ Social Club and the Young Ladies’ Sodality also presented gifts to the Franciscans.

Father Egbert continued to serve the Church in other dioceses until his death on August 3, 1953, at Saint Francis Friary, Cincinnati, Ohio.

“We know that affliction makes for endurance,
and endurance for tested virtue,
and tested virtue for hope.
And this hope will not leave us disappointed,
because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts
through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”
Rm.5: 3-5.
Stanislaus F. Pekalski was born on May 24, 1910, in Natrona, Pennsylvania. He studied at Saint Mary’s College in Orchard Lake, Michigan and at Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan. He was ordained on February 25, 1938, in Saint Mary Cathedral in Lincoln by Bishop Louis B. Kucera.

Father Pekalski served at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Lincoln 1938; Saint Thomas Orphanage, Lincoln 1938-1940; St. Joseph Church, York 1940-1941; Saint Mary, David City 1941-1943; and Saint Andrew, Osceola 1943-1946.

Father Pekalski left the Diocese of Lincoln in 1946. He died in Holy Trinity rectory in Ford City, Pennsylvania on August 4, 1952. Burial was in Natrona, Pennsylvania.

“Since the Lord, your God, is a merciful God, He will not abandon and destroy you.”

Dt. 4:31.
George J. Livanec was born on August 27, 1914, in Cleveland, Ohio. He studied at John Carroll University in Cleveland, Ohio, and at Saint Procopius Seminary in Lisle, Illinois. He was ordained on May 15, 1940, in Saint Mary Cathedral, Lincoln, for the Diocese of Lincoln.

After serving for a few weeks at Saint Mary Cathedral in Lincoln, Father Livanec was appointed assistant at Saint Wenceslaus Parish in Wahoo on June 10, 1940.

On March 16, 1945, Bishop Kucera appointed Father Livanec as the first resident pastor of Morse Bluff. Since there was no church in that town, Holy Mass would be celebrated in a rented hall, and Father Livanec would continue to reside in Wahoo while he organized the parish. Later a house in Morse Bluff would be rented for a rectory.

On July 1, 1945, Father Livanec offered the first Holy Mass in the temporary church. He supervised the construction of new church which was dedicated on December 21, 1955.

Father Livanec died on August 5, 1961. Bishop James V. Casey offered the Holy Mass for him in Morse Bluff. Burial was in Cleveland.
Christopher J. Quinn was born on January 16, 1852, in Johnstown, Pennsylvania. He was educated at Saint Vincent’s Seminary, Westmoreland, Pennsylvania, and Saint Michael’s Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was ordained by Bishop John Tuigg in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for the Vicariate of Nebraska, on August 17, 1877.

Father Quinn was stationed at Falls City 1877-1879, Lincoln 1879-1880, Seward 1880-1882, York 1882, Territory of the Dakotas and Wyoming 1882-1885, unassigned 1885-1893, Red Cloud 1893-1895, Orleans 1895, Nebraska City 1895-1896, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Lincoln 1896-1898, and Davey 1898-1902.

Father Quinn came to Nebraska ten years before the Diocese of Lincoln was established. He had great difficulty in accepting the deprivations and the solitude that were inseparable from the life of a pioneer priest.

His struggles to lead a life worthy of the priesthood ended on August 6, 1902, when God called Father Quinn from this life. He was buried in Pennsylvania.

“... For we do not have a high priest
who is unable to sympathize with our weakness,
But one who was tempted in every way that we are,
yet never sinned.
So let us confidently approach the throne of grace
to receive mercy and favor and
to find help in time of need.”

Hb. 4:15-16.
Marcellus Agius was born on December 2, 1879, on the Island of Gozo, Malta. He studied at the Seminary of Gozo and at the Gregorian University in Rome. He was ordained on July 25, 1901, in Rome, by Bishop Cappetelli Vicegerent for the Diocese of Gozo, Malta.

Father Agius came to the Diocese of Lincoln on June 26, 1925. His assignments were Wymore 1925-1926, David City 1927-1928, Bloomington 1928-1929, St. John’s, Plattsmouth 1929-1931, Holy Rosary, Plattsmouth 1931-1935, Roseland and Logan 1935-1936 and a leave of absence in November, 1936 because of illness.

During his leave of absence, Father Agius went to Malta. He returned to the United States in September, 1938. Since there was no vacancy in the Diocese of Lincoln, Bishop Kucera arranged for Father Agius to be temporary chaplain of the Francis G. Keens Home for the Aged in Kearney, Nebraska.

On February 15, 1939, Father Agius left Kearney to reside with his brother, Monsignor George Agius in Plattsmouth. In July, 1939, Father Agius returned to Malta. In May, 1941, he suffered a stroke in Malta. On August 6, 1947 he died.

“May your kindness, O Lord be upon us who have put our hope in you.”

Ps 33:22
August Kraemer was born on July 13, 1898 in Cincinnati, Ohio. He studied at Saint Mary’s Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was ordained on June 6, 1925, by Bishop Francis J. Howard in Cincinnati, Ohio, for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Kraemer’s appointments were David City 1915-1927, Hastings 1927-1928, Fairbury 1928-1929, Alexandria 1929-1931 and Blessed Sacrament Parish in Lincoln from 1931 to 1969.

In Alexandria, Father Kraemer supervised the construction of a church and rectory. At Blessed Sacrament in Lincoln, he directed the construction of the parish church, purchased a convent and rectory and added the second story to the parochial school in order to provide facilities for a junior high school.

In 1955, Father Kraemer was named a Domestic Prelate. He was invested with this honor on June 28, 1955. The following year, Monsignor Kraemer was appointed a Diocesan Consultor.

On March 10, 1969, Monsignor Kraemer retired with his residence in Phoenix, Arizona. He died there on August 6, 1980. At his request, the funeral services and burial were in Phoenix. Father E. C. Tuchek characterized him as “a good servant of the Lord, a good shepherd of his people.”

“I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.” Jn. 10:11.
Giovanni Montini was born in Brescia, Lombardy, on September 26, 1897. His health was frail for much of his early life. He attended a Jesuit school near his home. In 1916, Giovanni entered the seminary and was ordained in 1920. Father Montini was sent to study at the Gregorian University and the University of Rome. He later transferred to the Accademia dei Nobili Ecclesiastici while remaining a student at the Gregorian.

Father Montini served as a secretary to the nuncio in Warsaw, but was soon called to work at the Secretary of State in Rome because the Polish winter was detrimental to his health. He became undersecretary in that office in 1937, and Secretary of State in 1952. Father Montini oversaw the Vatican’s efforts to help refugees and prisoners of war during World War II. In 1954, he was named Archbishop of Milan. Four years later, Pope John XXIII made him a Cardinal. Cardinal Montini was a member of the Central Preparatory Committee for Vatican Council II and the Technical-Organizational Commission. Upon the death of Pope John XXIII, Cardinal Montini was elected Pope taking the name Paul VI.

Pope Paul VI fulfilled his promise to continue on in the work that Blessed John XXIII had begun by bringing the Second Vatican Council to its conclusion and beginning its implementation. He also wrote the important and prophetic encyclical *Humanae Vitae*, defended priestly celibacy, traveled to five continents, and established the Synod of Bishops. Bishop Jacques Martin, the Prefect of the Pontifical Household under Paul VI, described His Holiness as a man of fortitude, nobility, and charity, with delicacy of soul, and a subtle humor (*L’Osservatore Romano*, August 31, 1978). This “pilgrim pope”, reached the end of his earthly pilgrimage on the feast of the Transfiguration, August 6, 1978.
“He (who is baptized) . . . must look upon (Baptism) with the eyes of the Christians of the early Church, as an ‘illumination’ which draws down upon his soul the life-giving radiance of divine truth, opens Heaven to him, and sheds upon this mortal life that light which enables him to walk as a child of the light toward the vision of God, the wellspring of eternal happiness.”

(Ecclesiastm Suam, #39, Pope Paul VI)
Robert Matthew Trausch was born on May 1, 1914, in Roseland, Nebraska. He studied at Saint Benedict College, Atchison, Kansas and at Kenrick Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri. He was ordained on June 7, 1945 in Sacred Heart Church, Roseland, Nebraska, by Bishop Louis B. Kucera.

Father Trausch served at York and McCook 1945-1949, Colon and Mead 1949-1965, and Shelby 1965-1970. In addition to his pastoral duties, Father Trausch found time to bring others closer to Christ through his artistic productions.

Although Father Trausch had no formal training in sculpturing, wood carving and other forms of art, he developed his native ability to a remarkable degree. Probably, his masterpieces were the crucifixes that he carved. Because of his twelve-year battle with cancer, Father Trausch understood suffering and was able to portray it in his carvings. Among the last things that he carved were candleholders for Saint Joseph Church, Colon.

Father Trausch went to meet his Creator on August 6, 1970. Funeral services and burial were in Shelby.

"I consider the sufferings of the present to be as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed in us."

Rm. 8:18.
No data concerning Father Thomas B. Malloy's early life is available. He probably came directly from Ireland to Nebraska in 1875, and then was sent to Saint Theresa Church in Lincoln. His name is listed in the Catholic Directory for the first time in 1875.

After serving in Lincoln for a year and four months, his health was deteriorating. The illness was diagnosed as tuberculosis. In the late fall of 1876, Father Malloy went to California with the hope that a warmer climate would help to restore his health.

It was at Saint Mary's Hospital in San Francisco that Father Malloy lost his battle with tuberculosis on August 7, 1877.

At the time of Father Malloy's death, Archbishop Joseph S. Alemany of San Francisco wrote to Bishop James O'Connor telling him "one of your subjects who came here for the benefit of his health, died at four o'clock this morning at Saint Mary's Hospital, where he had discharged most zealously and faithfully the duties of pastor up to the very day preceding his death."

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"I will leave to the young an example of
   How to die willingly and generously."

2Ma. 6:28.
Father Alcuin Kasny, O.S.B. was born on March 8, 1895, in Czechoslovakia. He studied at Saint Procopius Seminary in Lisle, Illinois. He was ordained as a member of the Benedictine Order on June 5, 1927 by Bishop Edward F. Hoban of Rockford, Illinois.

After serving in Illinois for six years, Father Alcuin was sent to Lincoln on February 24, 1933. He came in response to Bishop Louis B. Kucera's request for priests who knew the Czech language and understood the Czech culture.

Father Alcuin was assigned to Abie with the mission of Linwood. Two years later, Bishop Kucera wrote: "I wish to go on record in commending you for the splendid priestly leadership which you have supplied since you came to the diocese. I bespeak for you continued success, and I pray God to bless you and your people."

Father Alcuin served the people of Abie and Linwood until he was withdrawn by his Provincial on March 5, 1941. He died at Saint Procopius Seminary in Lisle, Illinois, on August 7, 1976.

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"Withhold not, O Lord, your compassion from me; may your kindness and your truth ever preserve me."

Ps. 40:12
James J. Garvey was born April 7, 1880, in Boone, Iowa. He studied at Columbia College, Dubuque, Iowa; St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota; St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, Colorado; and St. Benedict Seminary, Atchison, Kansas. He was ordained January 25, 1932 by Bishop Louis B. Kucera in St. Mary Cathedral. Father Garvey was the first priest to be ordained by Bishop Kucera.


Father Garvey died on the feast of the Curé de Ars, August 9, 1950. He shared much in common with this patron of priests. Father Garvey, too, was discouraged by friends from seeking the priesthood. School authorities also told him to discontinue his studies. Like the Curé de Ars, Father Garvey persevered in his humble and quiet manner until he reached the goal of the priesthood at age 52 years.

In his sermon, Monsignor Clarence J. Riordan said that charity is the foundation of the priesthood and it was charity that impelled Father Garvey to overcome all obstacles.
Ramon Decaen was born in Oxnard, California on Dec. 9, 1972. He attended Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula, California and Mount Saint Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland. On May 27, 2000, he was ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln by Bishop Fabian W. Bruskewitz.

Father Decaen began his active ministry as parochial vicar at Saint Mary Church in Nebraska City and teacher at Lourdes Central Catholic High School (2000-2003). He was next assigned to be the parochial vicar at Saint Cecilia Church in Hastings and teacher at Hastings Catholic Schools, also assisting with the Spanish-speaking ministry (2003-2005). In 2005, he was appointed parochial vicar at Saint John Church in Lincoln, as well as teacher at Pius X High School in Lincoln. Throughout this year, he was also assisting with the Spanish-speaking apostolate.

During the summer of 2006, Father Decaen studied Spanish in Mexico. Upon his return in September of 2006, he was appointed pastor of Saint Ann Church in Doniphan, Sacred Heart Church in Kenesaw, and teacher at Hastings Catholic Schools. Again during this time, he was assigned to assist in the Spanish-speaking apostolate (2006-2009).

Next, Father Decaen was made pastor of Saint Mary Church in Dawson and Saint Ann Church in Shubert, while also teaching at Sacred Heart School in Falls City (2009-2011). His final pastoral assignment was given to him in June of 2011 as he was appointed to Cristo Rey Church in Lincoln and made Diocesan Coordinator of the Hispanic Program. Along with these assignments, he became the Chaplain of the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in September of 2016.

After a short illness, Father Decaen died on August 10, 2021 at the rectory of Cristo Rey Church in Lincoln. The Rosary was prayed for him on August 20, 2021 at Cristo Rey Church in Lincoln, and the funeral Mass was held on August 21, 2021.
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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.
Father Damian Kvitek, O.S.B. was born on June 4, 1887, in Mrakov, Czechoslovakia. He joined the Benedictine Order and was ordained June 13, 1931, by Archbishop Quigley in Chicago.

Father Damian was sent to the Diocese of Lincoln by his Provincial in 1931. On August 10, 1931 he was appointed administrator of Bruno. On September 28, 1933 Father Damian was transferred to Deweese and his brother, Father Bartholomew Kvitek succeeded him at Bruno.


Father John J. Roche, O.M.I. was pastor of Saint Patrick Church, McCook from 1922 to 1933. His pastorate of eleven years witnessed some years of great material progress and some years of great poverty.

During his administration, the parish thrived spiritually until it was necessary to have three Holy Mass on Sundays. The services of an assistant were necessary in order to help with the added work.

On April 1, 1931, Father Roche was appointed dean of the newly-established deanery of McCook. It included the counties of Red Willow, Frontier, Hitchcock, Hayes, Dundy, Chase, Perkins and Lincoln.

Five years after leaving McCook, Father Roche died on August 12, 1938, in Lowell, Massachusetts.
Patrick S. McShane was born September 13, 1862, at Kilcar, County Donegal, Ireland. As a young boy he came to the United States with his parents. He attended Saint Benedict’s College, Atchison, Kansas; and Saint Mary’s College, Saint Mary’s, Kansas. Later, he studied at Saint Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; and at Saint Mary’s Seminary, Baltimore, Maryland. He was ordained August 1, 1891, by Bishop Thomas A. Bonacum in the Church of the Annunciation, Kansas City.

The day after his ordination, Father McShane began his duties as assistant at Saint Theresa Pro-Cathedral, Lincoln. He continued his apostolate there for four years. At various times he was pastor of Dawson, Beaver Crossing, Harvard, and Aurora.

Later, Father McShane was chaplain of Saint Elizabeth Hospital and for fourteen years he was associated with Saint Thomas Orphanage. In 1916, he celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood in the chapel of Saint Elizabeth Hospital.

Following an illness of several months, Father McShane died on August 14, 1928. Funeral services were held at the Cathedral in Kansas City and burial was in Kansas City.

“God will redeem me
from the power of the nether world
by receiving me.”  Ps. 49:16
Maurice William Helmann was born on March 16, 1908, in Hastings, Nebraska. He studied at St. Mary's College, St. Mary's, Kansas and at St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, Colorado. He was ordained May 5, 1932, by Bishop Louis B. Kucera. He was the first parishioner of St. Cecilia, Hastings, to be ordained to the priesthood.

Father Helmann's first assignment was to organize the *Southern Nebraska Register*. He continued as editor of the newspaper for 26 years, 1932-1958. During that time he also served at Saint Teresa Church, Lincoln; St. Mary's, Davey; Veterans Hospital, Lincoln; and Blessed Sacrament Parish, Lincoln.

Father Helmann was named a Papal Chamberlain in 1941 and a Domestic Prelate in 1945. Monsignor Helmann was also Director of Catholic Social Service, Director of Diocesan Insurance, Field Secretary of St. Thomas Orphanage and Administrator of the Diocese of Lincoln when the see was vacant, May to August, 1967.


On the Vigil of the Assumption, August 14, 1973, Monsignor Helmann concluded an eventful, busy and fruitful life. Monsignor was known for his efficiency and promptness. What might have been done tomorrow, he did today. He was especially interested in promoting vocations to the priesthood. The seminary burse program was initiated by him.
Aloys Hahn was born August 3, 1866, in Rhineland, Germany. He studied at the University of Innsbruck, Austria. He was ordained March 25, 1892, by Bishop Simon Aichner of Brixen, Tyrol, Austria, for the Diocese of Belleville, Illinois. He served in that diocese for about three years.

Father Hahn came to the Diocese of Lincoln in January of 1895. His first appointment was Saint Joseph Parish, Paul, where he served from 1895 to 1904. On July 15, 1904, Father Hahn began his pastorate of thirty-three years at Saint Stephen Church, Lawrence.

In 1905, Father Hahn directed the construction of a new rectory in Lawrence. The men of the parish made the concrete blocks used in the structure. According to oral history, Father Hahn was not only a spiritual leader, but the parishioners sought his advice in solving many other problems.

It was at the midnight hour on August 19, 1937, that a heart attack ended the life of Father Hahn. In his sermon, Father Engelbert Boll said that Father Hahn had built a lasting monument in the faith for which his congregation was known.

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"The righteous man will live by faith, but if he draws back, my soul will take no pleasure in him." Heb. 10:38.

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John Kelley was born to Verne and Iva Kelley on December 21, 1932 in Aberdeen, South Dakota. He had two brothers and five sisters. After graduating from high school, he attended Crosier Seminary in Onamia, Minnesota. On May 30, 1959, Father Kelley was ordained a priest for the Crosier Fathers.

Father Kelley served the Church in many capacities. He taught and worked as a business manager at the Crosier Seminary in Onamia. From August 1963 to June 1964, Father Kelley was pastor of Saint Patrick Church in Highland, Nebraska, and Saint Ann Church in Doniphan, Nebraska. Later, he was a provincial procurator of the Province of Saint Odilia and served at Saint Stephen Parish in Anoka, Minnesota. In 1978, Father Kelley became a diocesan priest for the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis. From 1977 to 2002 he was a parochial vicar at Nativity of Our Lord Parish in Saint Paul.

After a long battle with lung cancer, Father John Kelley met his eternal reward on August 15, 2002. He died at Our Lady of Good Counsel Cancer Home. His parish family at Nativity of Our Lord in Saint Paul dearly miss their long-time assistant pastor who was also chaplain of the Men’s Club and a catechist for the young parishioners. A Mass of Christian burial was held on August 20, 2002 at Nativity of Our Lord Church and Father Kelley was laid to rest in Resurrection Cemetery.
John Mika was born on April 29, 1945 in Spalding, NE. After graduating from Friend High School, he attended Saint John Seminary in Elkhorn, NE for college courses. This was followed by studies in philosophy and theology at Saint Paul Seminary, Saint Paul, MN. On May 6, 1972, Father Mika was ordained at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ by Bishop Glennon P. Flavin for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Mika began his priestly duties as Assistant Pastor at Saint Teresa Church, Lincoln (1972-1979); and Saint Joseph Church, Lincoln (1979-1980). His next assignment was as Pastor of Saint James Church, Curtis; Saint William Church, Wellfleet; and Saint Joseph Church, Farnam (1980-1991).

His final assignment was as Pastor of Saint George Church, Morse Bluff; and Sacred Heart Church, Cedar Hill (1991-1992). In October of 1992, Father Mika retired due to illness.

Father Paul Sheehy was born near Hastings, Nebraska, on July 8, 1928, to Thomas and Ella Sheehy. He attended Saint Cecilia Catholic School for his elementary and high school education. Upon his graduation from Saint Cecilia, Father Sheehy studied at Saint Louis Preparatory Seminary, Saint Louis, Missouri, and Saint Paul Seminary, Saint Paul, Minnesota. The Most Rev. Louis B. Kucera, ordained Father Sheehy on May 27, 1954, in Saint Cecilia Church, Hastings.


His Excellency, the Most Rev. Fabian W. Bruskewitz, celebrated the Mass of Christian burial at Saint Cecilia, Hastings, on August 19, 2006. As recalled by Father Robert Roh in his funeral Mass homily, Father Paul Sheehy was known for his love of the priesthood, cordiality, hospitality, intelligence, and musical talent. “We have known a priest who lived his life with serenity, with joy, with a spirituality grounded in knowing Jesus Christ.”
David Hintz was born at Misawa Air Force Base, Japan on April 6, 1955. He attended High School in Kailua, Oahu, Hawaii, and the University of Nebraska where he studied microbiology and worked in that field for a time. After that, he went on to attend Saint Pius X Seminary in Erlanger, KY, and Mount Saint Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD., followed by Ordination to the Priesthood by Bishop Glennon P. Flavin on May 24, 1986.

Father Hintz’s first assignment was as the Assistant Pastor at Saint Patrick Church in Lincoln. In God’s plan, Father spent a total of 19 of his 29 years in the priesthood serving that parish; those years being 1986-1988 as assistant, and later as pastor from 1994-2011.

During his priesthood, Father also served the parishes in Nebraska City and Bellwood. He also taught at Aquinas High School in David City, and Pius X High School in Lincoln. Besides his other duties, Father Hintz was also the Assistant Director for Catholic Cemeteries of the diocese from 1996-1998, then Director of Catholic Cemeteries from 1998-2013.

On October 10, 2007, Father Hintz was named Monsignor (Chaplain to the Pope) by Pope Benedict XVI. In 2011, he was appointed to the staff of Saint Gregory the Great Seminary in Seward as Dean of Men, as well as teacher of theology. He lived there until being admitted to Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in August of 2015.

Bishop James Conley celebrated a funeral Mass on August 21 in the new Saint Patrick Church, just a week after it was dedicated. This was most appropriate, as Monsignor was the pastor who initiated it’s construction while he was pastor in the 1990’s.

Bishop Emeritus Fabian Bruskewitz and more than 80 priests of the Diocese of Lincoln concelebrated. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery in Lincoln.
Father Boniface Tomek, O.S.B. was born on July 25, 1885, in Czechoslovakia. He began his studies for the priesthood at Saint Benedict College, Atchison, Kansas, and completed them at St. Procopius Seminary, Lisle, Illinois. He was ordained as a member of the Benedictine Order on June 1, 1912.

Father Boniface was sent to the Diocese of Lincoln in August of 1941. He was appointed pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Church, Abie, with the mission of Linwood. He served there for more than sixteen years.

On June 23, 1957, Father Boniface celebrated the golden jubilee of his profession of vows as a Benedictine, and the 45th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. Twenty priests and 350 parishioners of Saints Peter and Paul Parish, Abie, participated in the celebration.

The Very Rev. Walter Wiesmeier, O.S.B. of Schuyler presented a scroll to the jubilarian with the Apostolic Blessing for Father Boniface, the clergy, the parishioners and friends present at the jubilee celebration. After the Holy Mass, Father Boniface gave the blessing to all present.

Because Father Boniface was no longer physically able to perform the duties of pastor, he was transferred to St. Procopius Abbey, January 22, 1958. He answered God’s summons to his heavenly home August 19, 1965.
John Crowley was born March 31, 1841, in County Cork, Ireland. He completed his studies for the priesthood and was ordained in Ireland, July 25, 1875.

Father Crowley came to the United States immediately after his ordination and began his priestly career in Uniontown, Kentucky. He spent the first ten years of his priestly life in Kentucky.

On April 25, 1885, Father Crowley came to the Vicariate of Nebraska. Bishop O'Connor assigned him to the parish of Saint Andrew in Tecumseh. Beginning in 1891, the missions of Crab Orchard and Sterling were added to his duties.

In June of 1892, Father Crowley was transferred to Saint Mary Parish, Davey. He was pastor of that parish until August 21, 1898, when God called this missionary priest to his heavenly home. He was buried in the parish cemetery in Davey.

“*This seems to be the rule,*
that every single 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.*
Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto was born on June 2, 1835, in Riese, Italy, to Giovanni and Margherita Sarto. He was the oldest of the eight children in the Sarto family, a family of faith that had little worldly wealth. He studied at the parish school in Riese. The pastor there noticed his gifted intellect and arranged for him to receive a scholarship to attend a secondary school not far from Riese. When Giuseppe expressed his desire to study for the priesthood, his pastor and parents encouraged him and another scholarship was arranged for his seminary studies in Padua.

Father Sarto was ordained a priest in 1858, and later became the Bishop of Mantua (1884). Pope Leo XIII recognized the fruits of Bishop Sarto’s apostolic zeal, elevated him to Cardinal and appointed him Patriarch of Venice in 1893. Cardinal Sarto was elected to be the Pope in 1903, and chose the name Pius X. His Holiness took seriously his motto: “to restore all things in Christ” (Eph. 1:10). Pope Pius X battled the errors of modernism, reformed Church music, and started the codification of Canon Law. His ardent love for the Blessed Sacrament was manifested in his encouragement of the frequent reception of Holy Communion and his decree allowing children to receive their first Communion at the age of reason. Saint Pius X is frequently called the “Pope of the Eucharist.”

On August 20, 1914, Pope Pius X passed into eternal life. His tomb soon became a place of pilgrimage. Pius X was beatified on June 3, 1951 and canonized a Saint on May 29, 1954. His feast day is celebrated on August 21.
"Born poor and humble of heart,  
Undaunted champion of the Catholic faith,  
Zealous to restore all things in Christ,  
Crowned a holy life with a holy death."

(Inscription on the tomb of Saint Pius X in the crypt of the Basilica of Saint Peter)
In June, 1865, Casimir Rudroff was one of the three young men sent by the Benedictines in Atchison, Kansas, to the novitiate of Saint Vincent Abbey in Pennsylvania. Prior Augustine referred to the three of them as orphans whom he accepted in Saint Louis in 1861, to study for the priesthood.

In 1868 Casimir Rudroff (later Alban Rudroff) returned to Atchison to help staff the school. He was ordained as a member of the Benedictine Order in 1871.

At the request of the Bishop of Davenport, Iowa, Father Alban was sent there because of the temporary shortage of German-speaking priests. Father Alban served the parish of 140 members in Afton, Iowa.

In 1908, Abbot Innocence asked that Father Alban be released from the assignment in Afton, Iowa, in order that he might be sent to Saint Benedict Parish in Nebraska City where there were approximately 200 Catholics. Father Alban was pastor of Saint Benedict’s from 1908-1909, when he was transferred to Seneca, Kansas.

On August 24, 1939, Father Alban completed his missionary life at Saint Benedict Abbey, Atchison, Kansas.
John Jennette was born in County, Louth, Ireland, on October 4, 1842. He studied at All Hallows College, Dublin, Ireland. He was ordained by Bishop Whelan of Bombay, India, on June 24, 1874, for the Vicariate of Nebraska. He arrived in Omaha on September 1, 1874.

Father Jennette was assigned to St. Philomene Cathedral until October 25, 1875. He was then appointed pastor of Plattsmouth until May 1, 1876, when he returned to the cathedral as rector. On December 1, 1877, Father Jennette was transferred to Cheyenne. While in Cheyenne, he decided to enter the Jesuits and went to Florissant, Missouri, for his novitiate. After a few weeks he returned to Nebraska.

From 1879 to 1883, Father Jennette was pastor of Exeter. He supervised the construction of an addition to the church in Exeter and also directed the furnishing of Immaculate Conception Church in Sutton.

In 1883, Father Jennette was appointed pastor of St. Patrick Church, Omaha. In 1895 he resigned that pastorate and served as chaplain of St. Joseph Hospital until his death on August 25, 1918.

In his funeral sermon, Rev. P. C. Gannon referred to the 44 years that this pioneer priest served the Church in Nebraska, “He was always the man of God, loved by all for his great kindness and charity, an example to his brother priests.”
Nothing is known concerning the early life of Patrick Lysaght. He was ordained on July 16, 1882 for the Vicariate of Nebraska.

Father Lysaght's first appointment was as pastor of Saint Vincent de Paul Parish in Seward with its missions of York, Utica, and Ulysses. His first letter to Bishop O'Connor is dated September 6, 1882. In it Father Lysaght reported that he found a house in which to live since it was inconvenient to board.

On August 13, 1884, Father Lysaght expressed his concern for the members of a German settlement southwest of York. He arranged for a German-speaking priest to attend them at least twice a year. He suggested building a church for them in Bradshaw.

Father Lysaght was named pastor of Saint Joseph Church in York on November 3, 1886. This appointment reduced the expanse of territory for which he was responsible.

On February 3, 1887, six months before the Diocese of Lincoln was established, Father Lysaght was transferred to Jackson in Dakota County. He continued to serve in the Omaha Diocese until God called him to his eternal home August 25, 1903.

“The virtuous live forever, their recompense lies with the Lord, the Most High takes care of them.”

Ws. 5:15.
Anthony J. Lutz was born on September 18, 1873, in Ballenberg, Baden, Germany. He began his preparation for the priesthood in Baden, Germany, and completed it at Saint Francis Seminary in Wisconsin. He was ordained on June 20, 1897, at St. Francis, Wisconsin, by Archbishop Frederick W. Katzer for the Lincoln Diocese.


On June 9, 1948, Father Lutz retired. The following year, August 27, 1948, God called him to eternity. Funeral services were at St. Mary Cathedral, Lincoln, and burial was in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Paying tribute to the fervor and enthusiasm of Father Lutz, Bishop Kucera said: “One could not fail to observe that he was thrilled at the very sight of the altar. His whole being was affected. Like a child reaching out to grasp an object, Father Lutz would fix his gaze on the altar before him as he recited the prayers he had repeated so often during his long years in the priesthood. His voice was always vibrant with piety and devotion. He offered every Mass with intense concentration on the act of the sublime sacrifice in which the priest is another Christ.”
Glennon Patrick, son of Michael Flavin and Julia O'Brien, was born in St. Louis on March 2, 1916. He attended St. Theresa School, St. Louis Preparatory Seminary and Kenrick Seminary.

While attracted and encouraged to pursue a career in professional baseball he was more attracted to service of Christ the King as a priest.

On December 20, 1941, he was ordained by John Cardinal Glennon. Until 1949, Father Flavin was assistant at St. Michael Parish in St. Louis and teacher at Cathedral Latin School. He later became the Archdiocesan Master of Ceremonies, Secretary to Cardinal Ritter and assistant at the Cathedral.

Father Flavin was invested as Domestic Prelate on November 30, 1956, and named Director of the Mission Office. Six months later Monsignor Flavin, at age 41, was named a bishop by Pope Pius XII.

In 1960, Bishop Flavin was named pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in University City. While there he inaugurated the Tithing for the Poor Plan, which was designed to give aid to the needy parishes. The Bishop also served as Vicar General, Archdiocesan Consultor, Director of the Legion of Mary, National Director of the Catholic Knights of America and the Daughters of Isabella. In addition, he organized and directed Operation Renewal, which was one of the most effective programs in the country for bringing the message of Vatican II to the priests and people.

On August 17, 1967, Bishop Flavin was installed as the Seventh Bishop of the Diocese of Lincoln. In his homily on that occasion, Archbishop Bergan remarked that Bishop Flavin was beginning his administration during "nervous and troublesome days in the Church." He noted that there were many false prophets promoting heretical teachings. The events of the next quarter of a century verified his statement.
With unwavering faith and unmatched fortitude, Bishop Flavin pursued his two priorities - Catholic education and vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Under his leadership, funds were designated to provide an excellent Catholic education that remained affordable for all. Vocations to the priesthood have steadily increased, and to insure that the Diocese would always have Religious Sisters in its schools, he founded, in 1976, the School Sisters of Christ the King.

A remarkable incident occurred in 1991. Bishop Flavin wrote a Pastoral Letter to the Catholic couples and Catholic physicians of the Diocese on the evil of artificial contraception. He presented the truth in such a clear, compassionate and fearless manner that it was recognized by experts outside the Diocese as a masterpiece. Suddenly, Bishop Flavin, who always shunned publicity, was praised internationally for his precise and courageous presentation of the teachings of the Church. It was published in English, French and Spanish. Responses came from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, France, England and many other places.

One example of his contemplative spirit occurred just weeks before his death. In a casual conversation the Bishop was joking with some seminarians and a few priests. Then he became serious and said very quietly, "Live as Christ lived. Give yourself to others as Christ gave of Himself; then when you are offering Holy Mass you will know what it means to say, 'This is my Body; This is my Blood'."

In the Summer of 1995, Bishop Flavin was diagnosed with incurable cancer. With his usual calm and cheerful disposition he accepted it. Expressing his deep faith and trust, he said: "I have completed the work God gave me to do; now I am ready to die, if that is God's holy will."

In announcing the pious death of Bishop Flavin on August 27, 1995, Bishop Bruskewitz said: "The eloquence of his life is a glowing tribute which shall echo in the history of the Catholic Church in Nebraska for many generations."

Oh, the depths of the riches of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God.
Rm. 11:33

COAT OF ARMS OF BISHOP FLAVIN
Motto: THAT CHRIST MAY REIGN!
John V. Wallace was born November 20, 1850 in County Limerick, Ireland. He studied at Niagara University in Niagara Falls, New York. He was ordained June 7, 1879 by Bishop Stephen V. Ryan for the Vicariate of Nebraska. Another pioneer priest in Nebraska, Father John E. English, was ordained on the same day.

Father Wallace arrived in Nebraska July 1, 1879. Bishop James O’Connor assigned him as assistant to Father Christopher J. Quinn at Saint Theresa Church in Lincoln.

After being in Lincoln for about six months, Father Wallace was appointed pastor in Seward on January 25, 1880. He replaced Father P. N. O’Brien.

Father Wallace was transferred to Forest City (Gretna) in 1881. He served there for more than a quarter of a century.

On August 27, 1917, this dedicated missionary priest was called to the reward promised to God’s faithful servants.

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“The world which is entrusted today to the loving ministry of the pastors of the Church is that world which God so loved that he gave his only Son for it.”

*Documents of Vatican II, Priests, 22.*
Michael Joseph Shanagher was born on December 28, 1876 in Tulsk, County Roscommon, Ireland. He began his studies for the priesthood at Sligo and completed them at Maynooth. He was ordained on June 22, 1903 by Archbishop William Walsh of Dublin. He was ordained for the Diocese of Elphin, Ireland.

After eleven years of priestly ministrations in Ireland, Father Shanagher came to the United States in 1914. He was stationed in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for one year.

On May 19, 1915, Father Shanagher came to the Diocese of Lincoln and served as assistant pastor at Saint Mary Cathedral until April of 1916. On April 28, 1916, he was appointed pastor of Saint Leo Parish, Palmyra, and Saint Martin Parish, Douglas. He served these parishes for 18 years.

Some of the improvements made at Douglas during Father Shanagher's administration were an extension to the sacristy and the acquisition of new furnishings. The latter included a vestment case, steel safe, lockers, new vestments and new altar linens. In 1925, Father Shanagher solicited a donor for an altar worth $1000. During the same year, a new furnace was installed and a new fence enclosed the cemetery.

Father Shanagher completed his obscure and unpretentious life August 31, 1934. According to the account in the Southern Nebraska Register, Father Shanagher was the embodiment of loyalty and courtesy. "He served his people faithfully and with no thought of self in a manner that endeared him to all."
Jan Smutny, son of Thomas and Frantiska (Svestka) Smutny was born in Strelicich, Czech Republic, on September 10, 1918. He attended grade school in Strelicich. His high school, college and seminary studies were all completed in Brno. The Most Rev. Stanislaus Zela ordained Father Smutny on July 5, 1942, for the Diocese of Brno. Father Smutny’s ordination took place during Hitler’s occupation of Czechoslovakia.

Father Smutny’s first assignment was to Saint Nicholas Parish in Oslavany. He was also named director of youth for his deanery. In 1948, Communists took control of Czechoslovakia. Father Smutny was in danger of arrest and fled the country on February 17, 1949. He served as a chaplain in refugee camps in Austria, Italy, and Germany from 1949-1950. During his time in Austria, he visited Sister Marta and Sister Theresa, the foundresses of the Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln, who had also escaped Communist rule in Czechoslovakia. After securing a visa to the United States and coming to Lincoln with the help of the Most Rev. Louis B. Kucera, Father Smutny spoke to Father Tuchek and Bishop Kucera about the needs of the two refugee Sisters. This initiated Sister Marta and Sister Theresa’s invitation to Lincoln, where they later formed their new religious family.

During his time in the Lincoln Diocese, Father Smutny served as chaplain of Saint Joseph Villa, David City (1951-1953), and was administrator of the parishes in Benkelman, Roseland, and Curtis. Bishop Kucera noted Father Smutny’s outstanding piety, zeal, and love for souls. Sister Theresa remembers his simplicity and humility. In 1958, he transferred to the Diocese of Grand Island, where he served as pastor in Pleasanton, Hazard, and Prairie Center. Father Smutny retired in 1993, and passed away on August 28, 2008. He was buried in Hřbitov Střelice in the Pohrební Ustav Cemetery in the Czech Republic.
Ernest Otto Sloup, son of Wenceslaus Sloup and Adela Prochaska, was born in Prague, Nebraska, on September 6, 1920 and was baptized in Sacred Heart Church, Cedar Hill, on September 21, 1920. He attended St. John School in Prague and the Public High School in Prague. Then from 1941 to 1945, he served in the Army’s Signal Corps of World War II. After being discharged from the Armed Forces, he began his studies for the priesthood at St. Benedict College in Atchison. He completed his preparation at St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. On June 4, 1953, he was ordained to the holy priesthood by Bishop Kucera in St. John Church, Prague, Nebraska.

Father Sloup’s first appointment was as assistant at St. Mary Church, David City. In 1955, he was given a leave of absence to study journalism in Denver. From 1956 to 1958, he was the associate editor of the Southern Nebraska Register. During that assignment he accepted chaplaincy in the National Guard on Jan. 23, 1957. From 1960 to 1963, Father Sloup was pastor in Ashland and Greenwood. In 1963, he became a chaplain in the U.S. Army. During the four years that he served as chaplain, he earned the rank of major.

After being released from his duties as chaplain in the U.S. Army, Father Sloup served in Roseland, Assumption and Holstein from 1967 to 1977, Trenton and Palisade from 1977 to 1987, and Benkelman and Stratton from 1987 to 1988. As pastor in the various parishes, as associate editor of the diocesan newspaper, as chaplain in the National Guard and as Chaplain in the U.S. Army, everywhere he served, Father Sloup radiated kindness and understanding.

Because of ill health, Father Sloup retired on May 1, 1988. This faithful priest completed his earthly pilgrimage on August 30, 2000. His funeral Mass was offered on September 2, 2000 in St. John Church, Prague, with burial in the parish cemetery.
Monsignor Schuster was born on August 18, 1911, in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He began his preparation for the priesthood at St. Lawrence College in Mt. Calvary, Wisconsin and completed his studies at St. Francis Seminary in St. Francis, Wisconsin. On April 16, 1938, he was ordained to the holy priesthood in St. Mary Cathedral, Lincoln, by the Most Reverend Louis B. Kucera for the Diocese of Lincoln.

During his priestly career, Monsignor Schuster served the Diocese of Lincoln in many important positions. He was Superintendent of Diocesan Schools from 1943 to 1948, Chaplain of the Newman Club from 1942 to 1958, Notary and Defender of the Bond for the Diocesan Tribunal, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Hastings from 1958 to 1960 and pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Ulysses from 1960 to his retirement in 1985. At age 39, he was invested as Domestic Prelate in St. Mary Cathedral, Lincoln, on May 17, 1951.

As an educator, Monsignor used various techniques to help young people develop. Father John Sullivan in his homily during the Funeral Mass in Ulysses on September 3, recalled one of Monsignor’s unique methods. He would hide coins on the church grounds so that the children would have the joy of finding these hidden treasures. Probably his motive was that by association, the young people would learn to appreciate the spiritual treasures that awaited them inside the church.

Monsignor appreciated the fact that the church was the House of God. The building and its surroundings were always kept in perfect condition. He knew how to decorate the interior of the church so that it would enhance the beauty of the Liturgy. He planted trees, roses and shrubs to make the exterior more attractive.

After 61 years of priestly service, God called Monsignor Schuster to his eternal home. The Funeral Mass and burial were both in Ulysses where he was pastor for a quarter of a century.

“Instruct a wise man and he becomes still wiser; teach a just man, and he advances in learning.” - (Prv 9:9)
“Go into the whole world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15