Father Emmanuel Hartig, O.S.B. was born on May 1, 1830, in Inchenhofen, Bavaria. He came to the United States in 1855, and joined the Benedictine Fathers at St. Vincent Abbey, Latrobe, Pennsylvania. He was ordained September 21, 1860.

On July 10, 1861, Father Emmanuel was sent to Nebraska City with orders to complete the church. He was also given charge of all the Catholics living south of the Platte River. Besides completing the church in Nebraska City in 1861, Father Emmanuel supervised the construction of a church in Plattsmouth in 1862, in Lincoln and Tecumseh in 1868, and in Palmyra in 1874.

Father Emmanuel was administrator of the Diocese of Lincoln during the absence of Bishop Bonacum in 1893. During that same year, he was also named Vicar General of the diocese.

Father Emmanuel traveled on horseback not only to stations in Nebraska, but also to settlements in Missouri, Kansas and Iowa. On one of his trips during the Civil War, Father Emmanuel was arrested because a soldier thought he was a spy. When Father Emmanuel reached down in his saddle bags and produced a breviary, a chalice and other articles used for Holy Mass, the missionary priest was permitted to proceed on his journey.

Father Emmanuel concluded his missionary life on September 1, 1910.
Henry M. Roth was born on September 8, 1853 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was ordained on May 22, 1880, for the Diocese of Fort Wayne, Indiana. After serving in Indiana for three years, Father Roth came to the Diocese of Lincoln on August 30, 1883.

Father Roth was pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Rulo from 1883-1888. On June 23, 1888, he was named pastor of the newly-established German parish in Lincoln — St. Francis de Sales. Under his direction a site for the new church was purchased and the church was built.

Although still a young man, Father Roth was compelled by illness to retire in April of 1889. He died on September 3, 1889, five days before his 36th birthday.

Father Polycarp Van Mourick, O.F.M. was born on May 19, 1877. He joined the Franciscan Fathers and was ordained on June 24, 1904.

Three years after his ordination, Father Polycarp was appointed assistant pastor of Saint Francis de Sales Parish, Lincoln in 1907. He served the German-speaking people of Lincoln until 1910 when he was transferred by his Provincial to Roswell, New Mexico.

Father Polycarp completed his ministrations as a Franciscan Father on September 3, 1942.
Herman S. Haukap was born on July 16, 1896, in St. Louis, Missouri. He studied at Loyola Hall of St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri; Kenrick Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri; and St. Thomas Seminary, Denver, Colorado. He was ordained June 12, 1921 by Archbishop J.J. Glennon for the Lincoln Diocese.

Father Haukap served for short periods of time at Plattsmouth, Paul, Lawrence, Cambridge, Campbell and Hastings before being appointed pastor of Indianola on May 1, 1924.

On November 6, 1935, Father Haukap was appointed dean of the McCook Deanery. On June 4, 1943, he was named a Domestic Prelate. After 25 years as pastor of Indianola, Monsignor Haukap was transferred to Sacred Heart Parish, Lawrence, on July 3, 1949. His other pastorates were Imperial and Wauneta 1954-1956, and Fairbury 1956-1959.

After a stroke in August of 1959, his brother, Rev. George Haukap of St. Louis, cared for him until God ended his suffering on September 3, 1959.

On the occasion of his investiture as a Domestic Prelate, Bishop Kucera referred to the courage and dedication of Monsignor Haukap during the years of drought and economic stress. Although many left the country for the city during those years, Monsignor stayed at Indianola and his accomplishments became an inspiration for others.


While pastor in Minden, Father Jaworowski planned a mission for the Spanish-speaking people residing in that area. In Sutton he initiated a program to repair and remodel the church and hall. He also organized an intensive program for the young people.

Father Jaworowski became ill on Friday, September 1, 1972, and died of a heart attack at the Superior Hospital on September 4, 1972.

In referring to some of the changes being promoted by enthusiasts after Vatican II, Father Jaworowski made this perceptive comment in 1967: "There have been too many outspoken voices who are willing to tear down the discipline of the past and who have nothing better to offer for the future. It will take time to clarify many conflicting ideas. Meanwhile many good souls will be confused to the detriment of their faith."
Patrick Harte was born on March 19, 1899, in Ballinamuch, County Leitrim, Ireland. He studied at St. Mel's College, Longford, Ireland; St. Mary's Moyne, Longford, Ireland; and St. Peter's College, Wexford, Ireland. He was ordained on May 6, 1923, at St. Peter's College, by Bishop Codd for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Harte arrived from Ireland on September 29, 1923. After substituting in several parishes, Father Harte's assignments were Alexandria 1925-1928, St. Francis, David City 1928-1931, Manley and Elmwood 1931-1936 and Beatrice 1936-1940. Other assignments included St. Joseph Villa, David City. St. Mary's Hospital, Nebraska City; St. Thomas Orphanage, Lincoln; St. Mary's, Dawson; St. Ann, Shubert; St. Mary, Sutton, and Lawrence.

Because of physical ailments, Father Harte asked for a chaplaincy in a warmer climate. He went to St. Thomas Hospital in Colby, Kansas in 1959. He died there on September 7, 1968, and was buried in Colby, Kansas.

"I will thank you always for what you have done, and proclaim the goodness of your name, before your faithful ones."

Ps. 52:11
William S. Ferris was born on July 19, 1882, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He studied at Gonzaga University, Woodstock College, St. Louis University, Kenrick Seminary, and The Catholic University of America. He was ordained on June 6, 1922, by Bishop Chartrand at St. Meinrad’s, for the Diocese of Lincoln.

William Ferris began his preparation for the priesthood in the Jesuit novitiate. His frail health did not permit him to continue. He was given a teaching position at the University of Creighton. In 1919, Bishop Charles J. O’Reilly agreed to accept him as a seminarian for the Diocese of Lincoln. Intermittent illnesses and physical examinations yielded contradictory reports. One report diagnosed his ailment as tuberculosis, another said that he was no longer afflicted with it.

His first appointment was as assistant in Falls City for six months. His other assignments were Bloomington and Riverton 1922-1924, and Aurora with Giltner 1924-1925.

Father Ferris’ desire to become a member of a religious congregation persisted. In August of 1925, he received permission to re-enter the Society of Jesus. With the permission of Bishop Francis J. Beckman, he resigned his pastorate at Aurora on August 31, 1925.

After making his profession of vows as a Jesuit, Father Ferris taught at Saint Louis University. He was later sent to Belize, British Honduras, where he died on September 10, 1931, at the age of 49 years.

“We know that God makes all things work together for the good of those who have been called according to his decree.”

Rm. 8:28.
Southern Nebraska was a part of the Vicariate of Nebraska until 1885. When the vicariate was advanced to the status of a diocese, the area south of the Platte River belonged to the Diocese of Omaha for two years 1885-1887. It was in that interim that Father James McMullen asked to be admitted to the diocese.

According to the annals, Father James McMullen was received into the diocese by Bishop James O'Connor on August 11, 1886. No biographical information was recorded.

Father McMullen was sent to Lincoln to be an assistant to Father Michael A. Kennedy, the pastor of Saint Theresa Church, on August 11, 1886.

A later entry in the annals states: "Received a telegram stating that the Reverend James McMullen died at Seward today, September 12, 1886." Father McMullen had served in the diocese for just one month and one day.

Death had once more robbed the diocese of the services of a priest who was so urgently needed in those pioneer days.

"How deep are the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How inscrutable his judgments, how unsearchable his ways!"  
*Rm. 11:33.*
John Benedict Pastorak was born on March 21, 1894, in Czechoslovakia. He studied at St. Procopius College, Lisle, Illinois, and at St. Joseph Seminary, Yonkers, New York. He was ordained on September 23, 1916. Before coming to Nebraska, Father Pastorak served in New York, Massachusetts, and Ohio.


On June 7, 1943, Father Pastorak became a citizen of the United States. He was incardinated into the Diocese of Lincoln on July 30, 1946.

The peace and quiet of Plasi was the environment that Father Pastorak appreciated for his writing. His 600-page book on *Sermons for Forty Hours Devotion*, was published by B. Herder Book Company, Saint Louis, in 1947. Three years later, he wrote a two-volume edition of *Sermons for Eucharistic Devotion*. During the winter when he was marooned in Plasi for eight weeks, he published the book entitled, *Brainard’s Monsignor Klein*.

After spending his life encouraging the worship of Our Eucharistic King, Father Pastorak was called to the eternal adoration of Our King on September 12, 1979.
John F. Curtis was born June 17, 1836 in Carnarvon, North Wales, of Irish parents. He studied at All Hallows College in Dublin Ireland. He was ordained in 1865, in Ireland for the Vicariate of Nebraska. He came to Nebraska in September of 1865 and served at St. Philomena Church in Omaha.

During Bishop O'Gorman's absence to attend the Vatican Council, Father Curtis served as administrator of the vicariate, 1869-1870. During that time he encouraged the Irish Catholics in Nebraska City to organize their own parish.

In 1873, Father Curtis took a leave of absence because he was suffering from tuberculosis. When he returned in 1874, he was appointed pastor of Saint Theresa Church in Lincoln with the missions of Greenwood, Ashland and Stephen's Creek (Walton).

According to Father Curtis, there were about 6000 people living in the City of Lincoln in 1874. He described the church as being a small building and poorly furnished. He frequently referred to the religious indifference of the Catholics in Lincoln and in the surrounding area.

Since his health was not improving, Father Curtis submitted his resignation as pastor of St. Theresa's on October 17, 1876. He was assigned to Holy Family Church in Omaha, where he died on September 13, 1879. He was 43 years old.
Rudolph Stoltz was born on September 25, 1878, in Logansport, Indiana. He studied at Saint Charles Seminary in Carthagena, Ohio. He was ordained June 11, 1907 at St. Charles Seminary by Archbishop Henry Moeller as a member of the Precious Blood Society.

After serving at various places in Missouri and Indiana, Father Stoltz was appointed pastor of Saint Mary Parish, Nebraska City, in 1925. In addition to his duties as pastor, he was also appointed chaplain of the new court of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in Nebraska City, on April 3, 1929.

Under his direction, the parish continued to collect funds for a new church. On August 20, 1933, the newspapers published the architect's drawing of the proposed church with the announcement that the building would be completed before the end of that year. Crop failures and financial difficulties changed those plans. The cornerstone was not laid until July 6, 1941.

After serving as pastor of Saint Mary Church for a decade, Father Stoltz was assigned outside of the Diocese of Lincoln by his Provincial, in 1935.

Father Rudolph Stoltz was pastor of the Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Casella, Ohio, when he died on September 13, 1944.
Thomas F. Daly was born February 27, 1907 in County Roscommon, Ireland. He studied at St. John's in Collegeville, Minnesota; St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota; and St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was ordained June 7, 1947, for the Diocese of Lincoln by Archbishop Moses E. Kiley at Saint Francis Seminary in Milwaukee.


Despite much pain and suffering, Father Daly persisted in parish work for more than three decades. In 1979 his infirmities forced him to retire. He chose to spend his last years in Florida, where he could walk along the shore admiring the beauty of God's creation and praising the Creator of "the seas and rivers". The waves dashing against the shore evoked memories of his home in Ireland.

Having shared in Christ's sufferings for so many years, it is significant that God called Father Daly to eternal life on the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, September 14, 1989.

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"If you can have some share in the sufferings of Christ, be glad, because you will enjoy greater gladness when his glory is revealed." 1 Pet. 4:13-14.
I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE!

ALLELUIA  ALLELUIA
September 14, 1918  Rev. Joseph Fleckinger

Joseph Fleckinger was born in 1860, in Mareith, Tirol, Austria. He studied at the University of Innsbruck, Tirol, Austria and at Saint Vincent’s Seminary in Pennsylvania. He was ordained in 1883, by Bishop John J. Kain in Wheeling, West Virginia, for the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Father Fleckinger came to the Diocese of Lincoln in 1898. He was assigned to Superior with the missions of Red Cloud, Riverton, Bloomington and Naponee. He also served at Orleans, Sutton and Hebron before he was appointed pastor in Lawrence.

After being pastor in Lawrence from 1904-1913, Father Fleckinger was in Luxemburg and Bellwood 1913-1914, Odell 1914-1916 and in Assumption from February 13, 1916 to March, 1917, when he resigned because of ill health.

Father Fleckinger went to California to regain his health in 1917. He died there and was buried in San Jose, California, on September 14, 1918.

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“We do indeed live in the body
but we do not wage war with human resources.
The weapons of our warfare are not merely human.
They possess God’s power for the destruction of
strongholds.”

2 Cor. 10:3-4.
Albin A. Pulokas was born on October 5, 1907, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He studied at Niagara University, Niagara Falls, New York; Saint Francis Seminary, Loretto, Pennsylvania; and Saint Thomas Seminary, Denver, Colorado. He was ordained on November 1, 1937, at Saint Mary Cathedral, Lincoln, by Bishop Louis B. Kucera.

Father Pulokas was assigned as assistant at York and McCool 1937-1938, and at Falls City 1938-1939, before he was given a leave of absence to serve in the Diocese of Crookston, Minnesota.

After his return to Lincoln in 1940, Father Pulokas served at Minden, Denton, Saint Thomas Orphanage and Alexandria. Because of illness, he was given a leave of absence in 1951.

After regaining his health, Father Pulokas ministered to the people in the Wilmington Diocese. He was in Philadelphia when God called him from this life on September 14, 1954.

“Forsake me not, O Lord; my God be not far from me.” Ps. 38:22,
Peter Naughton was born, June 13, 1910, in Galway, Ireland. He studied at Saint Mary’s College and at Saint John’s College in Waterford, Ireland. He was ordained at the Dominican Convent in Galway, Ireland, August 14, 1938, for the Diocese of Lincoln.


Father Naughton dedicated 41 years of the 48 years of his priestly ministrations to the Catholics in Western Nebraska. His early years on a farm in Ireland, helped him to understand the needs of Catholics living in a rural area.

Father Naughton knew that death from cancer was imminent. Realizing that the nearest priest was many miles from Benkelman, Father Naughton instructed one of the lectors to read the prayers for the dying. God’s Providence exceeded his expectations. At the moment of his journey to eternity, September 14, 1986, not one, but four priests were with him and praying for him as he went to meet his Creator.
James McNally was born on November 25, 1854, in Rochester, New York. He began his preparation for the priesthood at Niagara University, Niagara Falls, New York. He then traveled to Europe and spent three years studying in Innsbruck, Austria and one year in Italy, before returning to the United States. He was ordained on April 6, 1879, by Bishop James O'Connor for the Vicariate of Nebraska.

One month after his ordination, May 8, 1879, Father McNally was appointed pastor of Tecumseh. On November 5, 1879, he reported to Father Colaneri that he had two churches, the one in Tecumseh that he said had been built about 12 years ago and the other in Table Rock. The latter was not completed. He also mentioned that he wanted to build a church in Plum Creek. Since these people lived near the Kansas border, they were going to a church in Kansas. The pastor of that church did not want to lose his parishioners.

Father McNally directed the construction of a new brick church in Tecumseh in 1882. In addition he cared for missions and stations at Turkey Creek, Plum Creek, Table Rock, Liberty and Beatrice.

In 1884, Father McNally went to South Dakota and served the missions there until September 15, 1906, when he died while pastor of St. Mary Parish in Dell Rapids, South Dakota.

“Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation.” Ps. 38:23
William Lawrence Higgins was born on October 17, 1875, in Holyoke, Massachusetts. After earning a college degree, he spent three years studying medicine at Georgetown University. He became convinced that God was calling him to the priesthood. He began his studies at the Seminary of St. Sulpice in Paris, 1901-1902, and then transferred to the American College in Rome, 1902-1906. He was ordained June 9, 1906, in the Basilica of St. John Lateran, Rome.

Father Higgins arrived in Lincoln on July 11, 1906. He was stationed for short periods of time at David City, Wymore and Campbell before being appointed pastor of Highland. He remained in Highland from January 1, 1908 to July 21, 1909. On July 30, 1909, Father Higgins began his 18-year pastorate at Manley. Then from 1927-1928, he was pastor at Dawson.

In July of 1928, he became ill. According to the doctors he was suffering from influenza. He grew steadily weaker until in September he was taken to St. Catherine Hospital in Omaha. It was cancer that claimed his life on September 15, 1928. With the death of Father Higgins, his mother, who was his housekeeper, lost her only living relative. Father Higgins was 54 years old.

According to an article in the True Voice at the time of his death, Father Higgins “was at the service of his people at all times. Non-Catholics as well as the Catholic people of Manley esteemed him highly.”

“The Lord will help him on his sickbed,
He will take away all his ailment when he is ill.” Ps. 41:4.
John Lawless was born in April, 1844 in County Galway, Ireland. He studied at the Diocesan Seminary Loughrea, Ireland and at All Hallows College in Dublin, Ireland. He was ordained on June 24, 1868 by Bishop Whelan for the Diocese of Hailand in Australia.

Father Lawless came to the Vicariate of Nebraska in 1877. He was assigned to Jackson, Nebraska, until February 3, 1877, when he was sent to Grafton for about three months.

In 1888, Father Lawless was appointed pastor of Orleans with Bloomington, Red Cloud and Riverton as missions. At the end of the first year in Orleans, he told Bishop O'Connor that the majority of the people were of German origin and they wanted a German-speaking priest. Father Lawless was then transferred to Auburn.

Father Lawless was subject to severe attacks of rheumatism. Many times he had to be carried on a chair to the altar for Holy Mass on Sundays. After three years in Auburn, he was named chaplain of St. Elizabeth Hospital, Lincoln.

In 1895, Father Lawless was appointed pastor of Saint Patrick Church in Manley. At that time it was referred to as the Louisville Mission. Despite his rheumatic handicap, Father Lawless continued to serve the people of Saint Patrick's until his death on September 17, 1899. He was buried in Manley.

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"We know that by turning everything to their good,
   God cooperates with all those who love him,
   with all those he has called according to his purpose."

_Rm. 8:28._
Patrick Joseph Healy was born on March 13, 1881, in Listowel, County Kerry, Ireland. He studied at St. Michael College, Listowel, and at All Hallows College, Dublin, Ireland. He was ordained on June 24, 1904, at All Hallows College by Bishop Donnelly for the Diocese of Lincoln.

After temporary assignments in Harvard, Giltner and Aurora, Father Healy served as assistant in Hastings 1904-1905. On October 15, 1905, he became pastor of McCool Junction with Fairmont as a mission. On January 1, 1908, Aurora became the mission instead of Fairmont. Father Healy then changed his residence to Aurora. He was pastor of Grafton from 1911 to 1927, when he was transferred to Geneva.

While pastor of Saint Joseph’s Parish in Geneva, Father Healy was invested as a Domestic Prelate on November 13, 1932. Seven years later he was appointed pastor in Falls City. He not only helped the parishioners pay the indebtedness, but also began the building fund for Sacred Heart Memorial High School. Monsignor Healy then became pastor in Exeter from 1949 to 1956.

After being in the diocese for 52 years, Monsignor Healy said: “I have never regretted coming to the Diocese of Lincoln. From the first I liked the caliber of the priests. They were always friendly, and you could drop in on them at any time. And I always liked the people. They have been so easy to approach. They have reverence for the priest and are always willing to cooperate.”

It was in Exeter that Monsignor Healy died suddenly the evening of September 19, 1956.
Benedict Eugene Kalin was born on January 12, 1922, in Lincoln, Nebraska. He studied at Cathedral High School, Lincoln, and at Saint Thomas Seminary, Denver, Colorado. He was ordained on June 8, 1946, by Bishop Louis B. Kucera in Saint Mary Cathedral, Lincoln.


At Holdrege, Father Kalin supervised the construction of a new church, hall and rectory. He also participated in the Catholic Information Program over station KUVR in Holdrege. It was broadcast every Sunday afternoon.

In addition to being superintendent of Pius X High School for five years, Father Kalin was also Diocesan Director of the CYO. Seventeen years of whole-hearted service is all that God asked of Father Kalin.

At age 41, during the night of September 19, 1963, Father Kalin heard the summons: “Well done good and faithful servant.” To everyone it seemed to be an untimely death. In his sermon, Monsignor Riordan remarked: “Who is to say too soon to God? Some in a short space of time accomplish a lifetime of work.” Father Paul E. Sheehy characterized Father Kalin as one who “was strong, but kind; intelligent, but humble; rigorous with himself, but understanding of others, pious, but manly.”
Edward Andrew Valasek was born in Tarentum, Pennsylvania on March 15, 1919. He began his studies for the priesthood at St. Fidelis College in Pennsylvania and continued his education at St. Vincent Seminary in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. After being accepted by Bishop Kucera for the Diocese of Lincoln, he completed his studies in Theology at St. Mary Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland. He was ordained there in the Basilica of the Blessed Virgin on June 29, 1946 by Bishop John M. McNamara.

Father Valasek served as an assistant pastor at Wilber, Cortland, Swanton and St. Mary in David City until April 21, 1948 when he was named pastor of Sacred Heart in Burchard with the mission of St. John, Table Rock.

It was in Burchard that Father Valasek supervised the construction of a new church. Ground was broken for the new edifice on September 18, 1951. It was dedicated on June 16, 1953.

Other places where Father Valasek served as pastor were Deweese, Loucky, Odell, Trenton, Palisade, Osceola, Campbell, Blue Hill and Grant.

In 1993 Father Valasek retired and lived in Hastings, where he completed his earthly pilgrimage on September 19, 1999. The Most Reverend Fabian Bruskewitz celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial for Father Valasek on September 22, 1999 at Saint Stephen Church, Lawrence, Nebraska. Father Dennis Hunt was the homilist. Burial was in Saint Stephen Cemetery, Lawrence, Nebraska.
of my cup: and I am greatly pleased with my inheritance.

Psalms 15:5
John Baptist Redel was born on August 2, 1858 in Rich Fountain, Missouri. His parents were George Redel and Dorothea Jaeger. All of his preparatory studies for the priesthood were made at Saint Meinrad Seminary in Saint Meinrad, Indiana. As a seminarian he was adopted by the Diocese of Lincoln.

Because he was critically ill with tuberculosis, he was ordained before he had completed all of his courses. It was probably during the last week of July, 1893.

Father Redel offered his first Holy Mass of Thanksgiving at Sacred Heart Church in Crete. From there he was sent to Colorado to regain his health.

About two months after his ordination, on September 21, 1893, Father Redel completed his earthly life at age 35.

In the register of Saint Meinrad Archabbey, at the bottom of the page devoted to biographical data for Father Redel, there is this notation: "VIR SANCTUS!" - Holy Man!

"Having become perfect in a short while,  
He reached the fullness of a long career;  
for his soul was pleasing to the Lord,  
therefore he sped him out of the midst of wickedness."  
Ws. 4:13-14.
Francis W. Cadek was born August 30, 1890, in Chicago, Illinois. He studied at Saint Cyril College, Chicago, Illinois and at Kenrick Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri. He was ordained June 10, 1922, by Archbishop John J. Glennon for the Diocese of Lincoln.

His assignments were David City 1925-1931, Cambridge 1931-1932, Paul from March to June 1932, and Odell 1932-1958. After being pastor of Odell for 26 years, illness compelled him to ask for a leave of absence. Father Cadek lived with his sister in Chicago, until it was necessary for him to enter Concord Nursing Home in Oak Lawn, Illinois. He died there September 22, 1973.

John Joseph Reuland was born, June 25, 1908, in Parkston, South Dakota. He was ordained, June 4, 1933, by Bishop B. J. Mahoney for the Diocese of Sioux Falls.

Father Reuland was loaned to the Diocese of Lincoln and served in Hastings from 1933-1935, when Bishop Kucera requested that he remain for one more year. Father Reuland then served at Blessed Sacrament Parish, Lincoln from 1935 to February 9, 1936, when Bishop Mahoney insisted that he return to South Dakota.

Father Reuland completed his pilgrimage of faith, September 22, 1979.
Wenceslaus Sladky was born October 3, 1919, in Havlovice, Bohemia. He completed his studies for the priesthood in the seminary of Ceske, Budovice, Bohemia. On December 3, 1944, he was ordained to the holy priesthood in the Church of Saint Agnes, Ceske Budovice, Bohemia.

Father Sladky served in various parishes of his native diocese until 1949, when he had to flee in order to avoid imprisonment. While ministering to the spiritual needs of Czech refugees in France, Father Sladky petitioned the Sacred Consistorial Congregation for permission to migrate to the United States. Bishop Kucera accepted him for the Diocese of Lincoln in December of 1949.

After lengthy political negotiations, Father Sladky arrived in Lincoln, April 27, 1950. After intensive study of English for five months, he was assigned to St. Wenceslaus Church, Wahoo. Other places where Father Sladky served were Touhy, Bruno, Lawrence, Bee, Red Cloud with Riverton and Syracuse, Osceola and Orleans with Oxford. At Orleans he was pastor and dean until his retirement to Bonacum House in 1989.

September 12, 1991, Father Sladky left to visit his relatives in Czechoslovakia. His plans to remain there until December were suddenly interrupted on September 22, when God called him to his heavenly home. On September 27, the Holy Mass of Christian Burial was offered for him in his native country.

Unfailing kindness and cheerful acceptance of every assignment given to him were some of the most notable characteristics of Father Sladky.
SAINT WENCESLAUS, MARTYR,

through your intercession

MAY THOSE WHOM

GOD HAS CALLED HOME

ENJOY THE REWARDS OF

ETERNAL LIFE!
Ralph Egan was born on November 30, 1901 in Havelock, Nebraska. He studied at Columbia College, Dubuque, Iowa and at Kenrick Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri. He was ordained on June 2, 1928, by Bishop Francis Johannes in Atchison, Kansas, for the Diocese of Lincoln.


During the summer of 1936, Father Egan introduced street preaching in the Diocese of Lincoln. The following year, Bishop Kucera appointed him Diocesan Director of the Motor Missions in Southern Nebraska.

Father Egan was pastor of Rulo for 24 years. When he was appointed to Orleans, the people were sorry to see him leave, but they were grateful that they had been privileged to have him as pastor for almost a quarter of a century. They said that “The people’s love of the Blessed Sacrament gave testimony of the success of his efforts.”

At the time of his death on September 23, 1973, Father Egan was pastor of Saint Mary’s Church, Orleans and dean of the Orleans Deanery. The funeral services were in Orleans and burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Lincoln.

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“To the Benedictines of the Most Blessed Sacrament.”
Albert Wagner was born on November 5, 1885, in Germany. He studied at St. Fidelis in Herman, Pennsylvania; and in the Capuchin Seminary in Cumberland, Pennsylvania. He was ordained on June 22, 1911, by Cardinal Gibbons in Baltimore, Maryland, as a member of the Capuchin Order.

After receiving a dispensation from his religious vows, Father Wagner came to Lincoln in 1914. His appointments were: Luxemburg 1914-1915, Shelby 1915-1928, The Catholic University 1928-1929, and Cambridge 1932-1933.

In 1915, Bishop Tihen appointed Father Wagner as pastor in Shelby. In 1918, Bishop O’Reilly changed his status to administrator since there were no official documents of incardination. The matter was settled to the Bishop’s satisfaction in an interview August 14, 1918. Once more Father Wagner had the title of pastor.

In 1933, the question of incardination again became an issue. After serving in the diocese for 18 years, Father Wagner wrote his letter of resignation on September 1, 1933. He waited 10 days before he mailed it and then left Cambridge. He did not receive the Bishop’s reply telling him that he could remain there.

The daily newspapers reported that Father Wagner died in an automobile accident, September 24, 1933. He was buried in Utica, Nebraska.
Patrick Griffin was born on May 27, 1861, in County Donegal, Ireland. He studied in Baltimore, Maryland and at Saint Viator Seminary in Illinois. He was ordained on June 20, 1904 by Bishop P. J. O'Reilly of Peoria, Illinois, for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Griffin came to Lincoln on July 16, 1904, and was assigned to Davey. He contracted pneumonia and died on September 27, 1904, after being in Davey for only two months. Father Griffin served God as a priest for three months.

Father Juvenal Schnorbus, O.F.M. was sent to Saint Francis de Sales Parish, Lincoln in November 1895. After serving there for one year he was transferred to Peoria, Illinois.

After serving the Church as a faithful son of Saint Francis, Father Juvenal was called to eternity on September 27, 1912, while he was stationed in Cincinnati.

“I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living.”

Ps. 27:13.
John F. Ekeler was born on April 17, 1899, in Exeter, Nebraska. He studied at Saint Benedict College, Atchison, Kansas, and at St Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was ordained March 3, 1928 in St. Mary Cathedral, Lincoln, by Bishop Francis J. Beckman.


Father Ekeler was named a Domestic Prelate on December 22, 1945, and was invested on February 7, 1950. Monsignor Ekeler served as a Diocesan Consultor from 1959 to 1963.

Monsignor Ekeler died suddenly on September 27, 1963. In his sermon, Monsignor William A. Murphy recalled that in the rite of ordination, a priest is one set apart to offer sacrifice, bless, preach, teach, govern, and administer the sacraments.

"Every priest," Monsignor said, "is deeply conscious of his unworthiness for this high office. Every priest with trembling hands consecrates the host which is the Living Christ. And the priest asks who can be worthy of the priesthood, who can understand this mystery?"

"With God is my safety and my glory,

He is the rock of my strength, my refuge is in God." Ps. 52:11.
Wilbert, son of Walter Burzynski and Sophie Jazwick, was born in Havelock Nebraska, on November 1, 1923. A short time later his parents moved to Columbus, Nebraska. He attended St. Anthony School where the Franciscan Sisters helped him to develop intellectually and were also influential in his choice of a vocation as a Franciscan Father.


Father John Kent was assigned to St. Francis Solanus Parish in Quincy, for a year of pastoral internship. The following year he began a long career of serving the Polish-American Catholics. Father John treasured his Polish ancestry and devoted himself to perfecting his use of the Polish language so that he might serve the Polish people more effectively as their spiritual father.

From 1976 to 1978, Father John served at Good Counsel Retreat House in Waverly, Nebraska and from 1987 to 1989, he was parochial vicar at St. Mary Parish in Lincoln.

On September 28, 1995, Father John suffered a fatal heart attack. At his request his body was returned to Columbus, Nebraska and was buried in Saint Bonaventure Cemetery.

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Do not let your hearts be troubled, have Faith in God. John 14:1.
Let all of us look to the Good Shepherd,
Who suffered the passion of the cross
to save His sheep.

The sheep of the Lord followed Him
in tribulation and persecution,
in insult and hunger,
in infirmity and temptation
and in everything else,

And they have received everlasting life
from the Lord because of these things.

Saint Francis of Assisi
September 28, 1978

On October 17, 1912, Albino Luciani was born to Giovanni and Bortola Luciani in Canale d’Agordo, Italy. Mr. Giovanni Luciani was a migrant worker and later a glassblower. The Luciani family knew firsthand the life of the poor.

Albino began his seminary studies in Feltre in 1923. He entered the Gregorian Seminary in Belluno in 1928 and was ordained a priest in 1935. Over the next several years, Father Luciani served as a parish priest, seminary instructor, vice-rector of a seminary, doctoral student of sacred theology, diocesan chancellor, and vicar general. In 1947, he was given the title Monsignor. Monsignor Luciani was named Bishop of Vittorio Veneto by Pope John XXIII in December of 1958. As Bishop of Vittorio Veneto, he participated in the Second Vatican Council. In 1969, Pope Paul VI appointed Bishop Luciani as Patriarch of Venice. Four years later, Luciani was named a Cardinal.

Cardinal Luciani, was elected His Holiness, Pope John Paul I, during the conclave of August 1978, following the death of Pope Paul VI. During his short pontificate of thirty-three days, he proved himself the “smiling Pope.” He demonstrated his great pastoral concern for the souls in his care as well as his humility in the few papal homilies, audiences, and addresses that providence allowed. As the Vicar of Christ on earth, he had hoped to implement faithfully the teachings of Vatican II, revise the codes of Canon law to maintain the discipline of the Church, encourage evangelization, work for Christian unity, and promote greater justice and peace in international relations. Pope John Paul I passed away on September 28, 1978.
"Our own ministry is so vital: to preach the Word of God and to celebrate the Sacraments. It is from them that our people draw their strength and joy. . . We need never fear to proclaim all the exigencies of God's Word."

(From an address of Pope John Paul I to a group of American Bishops, September 21, 1978)
Michael Aloysius O’Boyle was born on July 4, 1878, in Scranton, Pennsylvania. He studied at St. Benedict College, Atchison, Kansas and St. Mary Seminary, Baltimore, Maryland. He was ordained on December 22, 1903 in Scranton, Pennsylvania, by Bishop Michael J. Hoban for the Diocese of Lincoln.

His appointments were Beaver Crossing 1910-1911, St. Mary Cathedral, Lincoln 1911-1914, Aurora and McCool Junction 1914-1915, Davey 1915-1929, Dawson 1929-1936, Shelby 1936-1944 and St. Francis Hospital, Osceola 1944-1949.

Although Father O’Boyle was only five feet, four inches tall, spiritually and mentally he was a giant. His two outstanding characteristics were his humor and his charity. He took little care of his outward appearance, often looking more indigent than the hundreds of poor people he fed and clothed.

With his humorous accounts he cheered the depressed. For Father O’Boyle, a song was often more effective than a sermon. His rendition of “Mother Macree” or an Irish jig often eased an anxious mind, and brought encouragement to the weak.

In hundreds of homes in the Midwest, the poor he loved cherished his memory. Many non-Catholic women and men he met during his travels attributed their conversion to the Catholic Church to his kind manner and his wise counsel.
Joseph M. Murphy was born December 8, 1892, in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. He studied at Saint Charles Seminary in Overbrook, Pennsylvania. He was ordained, June 23, 1918, at Saint Charles Seminary for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Eighteen years later Father Murphy requested affiliation with the Diocese of Lincoln.

On February 14, 1936, Father Murphy began his duties as assistant at Blessed Sacrament Church in Lincoln. Two years later he was given charge of Red Cloud and Riverton. On November 28, 1943, Father Murphy was incardinated into the Diocese of Lincoln. He became pastor of Saints Peter and Paul Parish with Salem on July 3, 1949. At the same time, Father Murphy was appointed dean of the Falls City Deanery.

Less than three months after he was named the pastor of Falls City, Father Murphy died on September 30, 1949. In his sermon Father Thomas Barden remarked that Father Murphy was probably the greatest preacher in the diocese. He added, “He left the memory of a friend, of one who never criticized.”

Bishop Kucera said that he “was always edified by Father Murphy’s humility and his firm purpose to take advantage of every opportunity to do good”. The Bishop continued: “Like His Master, he preached from many pulpits. His eloquent voice will long be remembered by many. His brief week in the hospital was a special sermon on resignation.”