Stanley J. Buckiewicz was born on August 23, 1910, in Chicago, Illinois. He studied at Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan. He was ordained on December 8, 1936, in Saint Mary's Cathedral, Lincoln, by Bishop Louis B. Kucera for the Diocese of Lincoln.


On December 8, 1961, while Father Buckiewicz was pastor of Saint Mary's, he celebrated the silver anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood. After the Holy Mass, the school children presented a program.

Because of health problems, Father Buckiewicz retired in February, 1971. He resided in North Platte. He died in Saint Mary's Hospital in North Platte on November 1, 1971. Funeral services were in Saint Mary's Church, Wallace with burial in Calvary Cemetery, Lincoln.

"The present burden of our trials is light enough, and earns for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison. 2 Cor. 4:17."
Gerard Boll was born on March 27, 1861, in Meppen, Hannover, Germany. He began his studies for the priesthood in Germany and completed them at Saint Meinrad Seminary in Saint Meinrad, Indiana. He was ordained on April 11, 1886, in Louisville, Kentucky by Bishop William G. McCloskey for the Diocese of Omaha.

At the time of Father Boll’s ordination, all of Nebraska belonged to the Diocese of Omaha. Father Boll arrived in Omaha on May 6, 1886. His appointments were: Hebron 1886-1888, Crete 1888-1914, and David City 1914-1919.

During the quarter of a century that Father Boll was the pastor in Crete, many projects were completed under his leadership. He succeeded in getting the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood from O’Fallon, Missouri to staff the school when the Ursulines left in 1889.

He started a building fund for a new church which was dedicated in 1893. He also directed the construction of a new rectory.

After serving the Church as a priest for 33 years, Father Gerard Boll went to meet his Creator on November 3, 1919.

Rev. Peter C. Gannon, editor of the True Voice, wrote: “Few priests have been so universally loved. He was of an even temperament, kind of heart, yet intensely zealous in his work as a priest.”
Clement Francis Broermann was born on February 7, 1873 in St. Bernard, Ohio. He studied at Saint Francis Seminary in Oldenburg, Indiana. He was ordained on July 24, 1897 by Bishop Francis S. Chatrand in Oldenburg, Indiana. Father Broermann was ordained for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

In 1913, Father Broermann came to Nebraska for his health. He was pastor of Saint Joseph Church in Paul for 16 years, 1913-1929. He was then named pastor of Hebron on July 7, 1929.

While in Hebron, he was invested as a Domestic Prelate on September 1, 1943. On that occasion, Father Joseph M. Murphy said: “In a world that ignores God, a world of luxury and selfishness, this priestly priest has ever boldly borne witness to God and preached the Gospel of duty, of self-sacrifice, of purity, of brotherly love, both by precept and example. We who know him best have the deepest respect for his simple piety and his burning zeal that have carried him through the years in spite of physical affliction.”

Because of failing eyesight, Monsignor Broermann retired on November 16, 1944. He lived with his relatives in St. Bernard, Ohio, until his death on November 3, 1951. He was buried in St. Bernard, Ohio. Bishop Kucera expressed his gratitude for the exemplary record that Monsignor Broermann “wrote into our history as a zealous priest and brotherly neighbor and friend.”
Sixtus Meyer was born on July 3, 1877 in Stootinghausen, Twistringen, Germany. He studied at St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Indiana and at Saint Charles Seminary in Carthagena, Ohio. He was ordained on June 9, 1906, at St. Charles Seminary by Archbishop Henry Moeller as a member of the Precious Blood Society.

Father Meyer was sent to the Diocese of Lincoln on September 28, 1910, and was appointed pastor of Saint Benedict Church in Nebraska City.

During Father Meyer's pastorate, the church was enhanced with stained glass windows that were imported from Germany at a cost of $2000.

In 1915, the Provincial of the Precious Blood Fathers transferred Father Meyer to Montrose, Missouri.

Father Meyer was living in retirement at Saint Charles Seminary in Carthagena, Ohio, when God summoned him to his eternal home, November 3, 1961.

*Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God.*

Ps. 42:2.
Clarence Reisdorff was born to John and Caroline (Schlentz) Reisdorff of Bellwood, Nebraska, on May 30, 1914. He was the fifth of six children. He attended Marietta School in Bellwood for his elementary and high school education. Clarence Reisdorff completed high school and then continued his schooling at Conception High School and Junior College in Conception, Missouri. He later attended Saint John Seminary in Little Rock, Arkansas. On June 15, 1946, the Most Reverend Louis B. Kucera ordained Father Reisdorff at Saint Mary Church, David City.


Monsignor Reisdorff died on November 3, 2005. The Most Reverend Fabian Bruskewitz was the principal celebrant at the funeral Mass held on November 7, at Saint Vincent de Paul, Seward, with the burial following at Saint Mary Cemetery, David City. Monsignor Hain, the homilist at the funeral, observed that, “Although reserved and unassuming by nature, Monsignor Reisdorff was loved and revered as a spiritual father and priest not only by Catholics but the entire community wherever he served as pastor... He was a man of deep faith, and holiness of life possible only through prayer and a heart of love for people patterned in the image of ‘Jesus Christ’s own pastoral charity’ (Pastores Dabo Vobis, #23).”
Ronald Patterson was born to Ott and Ada (O’Donnell) Patterson on May 16, 1930, in Auburn, Nebraska. He graduated from Cathedral High School in Lincoln. After his high school graduation, he joined the army. He eventually moved to California and graduated from California School of Mortuary Science. He worked as a mortician and owned and operated an ambulance service. While living in Los Angeles, he spoke with his pastor, who encouraged him to attend the seminary. Father Patterson was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Lincoln by the Most Rev. James Casey on March 20, 1964, after having completed his seminary studies at Saint Maur Seminary, Union, Kentucky.


After retiring in June 2006, Father Patterson was diagnosed with cancer. He battled this illness until his death on November 3, 2008 at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital, Lincoln. The funeral Mass was celebrated by the Most Rev. Fabian Bruskewitz at Father Patterson’s home parish, Sacred Heart, Lincoln, on November 6, 2008. Father Edwin Stander, homilist at the funeral, spoke of Father Patterson’s strong priestly bond with those he served as pastor. Father Patterson was buried at Calvary Cemetery, Lincoln.
Joseph A. Reinhardt was born on April 3, 1864, in Wolfratshausen, Upper Bavaria, Germany. He studied at St. Francis College in Quincy, Illinois, Saint Francis Seminary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Saint Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland. He was ordained on June 21, 1894, at Saint Mary's Seminary in Baltimore by Cardinal Gibbons for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Reinhardt was stationed in Seward from 1894 to 1895. Then from May to December of 1895 he served the people in the Luxemburg Settlement. He returned to Seward and was pastor there from 1895 to 1897 when he was transferred to Steinauer.

In July of 1899, Father Reinhardt left the Diocese of Lincoln and transferred to Illinois. He died in Lebanon, Illinois on November 4, 1914.

"Keep up your kindness to your friends, your just defense of the upright of heart."

Ps. 36:11.
Timothy Corcoran was born February 28, 1860 in Templemore, County Tipperary, Ireland. He studied at Mt. Melleray, County Waterford, Ireland, and at Saint Patrick College in Thurles, County Tipperary, Ireland. He was ordained June 29, 1882, in Dubuque, Iowa, by Bishop John Hennessy for the Diocese of Dubuque.

After serving in Iowa for 36 years, Father Corcoran transferred to the Diocese of Lincoln, October 1, 1918. His appointments were: Saint Mary Church, Cedar Bluffs 1918-1919; Saint Mary Church, Elmwood and Holy Trinity Church, Avoca, 1919-1922; Saint Mary Church, Dawson 1922-1923; Saint Joseph Church, Harvard 1924; and Saint Mary Church, Denton 1924-1928.

Because of illness, Father Corcoran retired on October 29, 1928. The following week, November 6, 1928, God called Father Corcoran to his eternal home. Funeral services were at Saint Mary Cathedral, Lincoln.

“Anyone who loves his life loses it;

anyone who hates his life in this world

will keep it for eternal life.”

Jn. 12:25.
Bishop James O’Connor was in urgent need of priests for the Bohemian people in the Vicariate of Nebraska. He sent an appeal soliciting help to the Bishop of Budweis in Bohemia. In January, 1877, he also sent his representative, Father Otto Groenebaum, to Europe to recruit Bohemian and German priests.

Father Groenebaum’s efforts were successful. As a result of his visit three priests came to Nebraska. They were Rev. John Blaske, Rev. Joseph Hovorka, and Rev. Felix Smutny. Both Father Hovorka and Father Smutny served in Southern Nebraska.

Father Smutny was dispensed from his religious vows as a Franciscan in order to work as a missionary in Nebraska. In May, 1877, Bishop O’Connor appointed him to care for the Bohemians in Saline County. Within a few months, Father Smutny collected funds and directed the construction of a church in Wilber. Meanwhile he offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass in the dance hall or in the courthouse.

The hardships that Father Smutny endured in Nebraska aggravated the tubercular condition from which he had suffered for a long time. He had to be hospitalized in Saint Louis from November, 1878 to May, 1879. After leaving the hospital, he went to Owatonna, Minnesota, where tuberculosis claimed his life on November 6, 1879. Bishop O’Connor referred to him as the most promising of the priests who came to Nebraska from Europe to work among the Bohemians.
William Murphy was born on January 19, 1846. He studied at Holy Cross College, Worcester, Massachusetts; St. Joseph Seminary, Troy, New York; St. Sulpice Seminary in Montreal; and Laval in France. He was ordained on February 20, 1874, for the Diocese of Burlington, Vermont.

Father Murphy was with the Jesuits from 1877-1879, then he was affiliated with the Diocese of Peoria for five years before coming to Nebraska.

His assignments were Grafton 1885-1887, Davey 1887-1892, and Tecumseh 1892-1895. Later he also served in Seward for some time.

Misunderstandings with serious consequences developed between Bishop Bonacum and Father Murphy. The disagreements and grievances were tried in both the ecclesiastical and civil courts. Reports of the trials were given wide coverage by the news media, not only in Nebraska, but also outside the state.

The difficulty was not settled until after the death of Bishop Bonacum. On August 30, 1911, Bishop J. Henry Tihen announced the settlement of Father Murphy's case and his reconciliation with the Church.

On October 19, 1911, Father Murphy was appointed pastor of Beaver Crossing. A few weeks later, November 7, 1911, he was killed in an automobile accident. Bishop Tihen sent this message to the Daily News, “The Bishop and priests of the Diocese of Lincoln feel inexpressibly sad over the sudden and tragic death of Father Murphy. Only lately they had rejoiced at his reconciliation to the Church.”
Bernard J. Haskamp was born on May 9, 1886, in St. Maurice, Indiana. He studied at St. Francis College, Cincinnati, Ohio and St. Mary’s Seminary, Mt. Washington, Ohio. He was ordained on June 14, 1919, by Bishop Ferdinand Brossart in St. Mary’s Cathedral, Covington, Kentucky, for the Diocese of Lincoln.


On March 16, 1951, Father Haskamp was named a Domestic Prelate. He was invested at St. Stephen Church, Lawrence on June 13, 1951.

Monsignor Haskamp was appointed Parish Priest Consultor on September 8, 1959. Besides his more strictly sacerdotal duties, Monsignor Haskamp was a gardener, and general maintenance man around the parish plant. Maintaining everything on parish property was taken for granted by Monsignor Haskamp. His expertise was especially useful during the depression years.

Monsignor Haskamp retired on August 28, 1963. He resided in Cincinnati. Less than six weeks later, he answered God’s call to eternal life on November 9, 1963. Funeral services and burial were in Cincinnati.

Monsignor Haskamp often said: “I came from a farm and I understand farm people.”
November 9, 1937  Rev. Joseph Frank Ress

Joseph Frank Ress was born on April 7, 1874, in Rheinfeldshof, Bavaria. He studied at Munnerstadt, Bavaria; Bastogue, Belgium; and American College, Louvain, Belgium. He was ordained October 11, 1896, at Wurburg by Bishop Franz Joseph Van Stein, for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Ress served temporarily at Saint Mary’s and Shelby. His other assignments were: Beaver Crossing and Greshman 1897-1899, Elsie and missions 1899-1901, Shelby and missions 1901-1908, Steinauer 1908-1915, Hebron 1915-1929, Steinauer 1929-1930, Campbell 1930-1933, Harvard and Giltner 1933-1936, Assumption, Juniata 1936-1937, Burchard and Table Rock from February 10, 1937 to his death as a result of an automobile accident on November 9, 1937.

Father Barden in his funeral sermon listed some of the duties imposed upon the priest by Christ and then showed how Father Ress had exemplified these ideals in spite of the handicap of poor health for many years.

November 9, 1979  Rev. Claude Barton, O.S.B.

Father Claude Barton, O.S.B. from Conception Abbey in Conception, Missouri was chaplain at Madonna Centers in Lincoln from 1963-1966.

Father Claude died at Conception Abbey on November 9, 1979.
Paul York was born in May of 1929 to Hugh and Agnes (Murphy) York in Liberty, Nebraska. He was one of their seven children. After completing his education at Barneston Public Elementary and High Schools, he served in the US Army during the Korean War. Later, he furthered his studies at St. Benedict College, Atchison, Kansas, and Conception Seminary, Conception, Missouri. The Most Rev. James Casey ordained Father York as a priest of the Diocese of Lincoln on May 30, 1964.

Father York was first assigned as assistant pastor at St. John Parish, Plattsmouth (1964-1968). During the summer of 1968, he studied at Creighton University before beginning his position as director of guidance at Bishop Neumann High School in Wahoo. In 1969, Father York was named assistant pastor at St. Wenceslaus, Wahoo. Later he served as assistant pastor at St. Teresa, Lincoln (1971-1972), and St. Mary, David City (1972-1974). In 1974, Father York became pastor of St. John, Weston, and St. Vitus, Touhy. From 1982 to 1998, he was pastor of the Church of the Holy Spirit, Plattsmouth. He also served as dean of the Plattsmouth Deanery. Father York’s last assignment was to St. Mary, Ashland, and St. Joseph, Greenwood (1998-2004). During this time, he also was diocesan director of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, Holy Childhood Pontifical Association, Missionary Union of the Clergy, and the Pontifical Missionary Society of St. Peter. Upon his retirement, Father York generously served as senior priest in residence at St. James Parish, Crete.

After a short battle with cancer, the Lord called Father York to Himself on November 9, 2010. The Most Rev. Fabian Bruskewitz offered the funeral Mass on November 13, and the burial took place at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, Plattsmouth. The Most Rev. Thomas Olmsted, who, like Father York, was a native of Barneston, gave the homily at the funeral Mass. He spoke of Father York’s child-like faith, generosity in being a spiritual father, and his true fraternal spirit as a brother priest.
The eldest of six children of Michael Barry and Rose Zimmerman was born in Agnew, Nebraska, on July 12, 1900. He was baptized Dionysius Leopold Barry. As happened frequently, the first name was gradually changed to Denis. The father of the family died when the youngest child was two months old. Although Denis decided at age 13 that he wanted to serve God as a priest, he considered it his responsibility to help his mother by farming and working as an electrician.

At age 24 he started his preparation for the holy priesthood by enrolling in Trinity High School in Sioux City, Iowa. He continued his education at Benedict College and completed it at Kenrick Seminary. With persistent effort, he finally reached his goal of being ordained a priest by Bishop Kucera on January 25, 1935.

Father Barry served for short periods as an assistant at York and Aurora before he was given charge of St. Patrick in McCool on May 9th, 1935. He then served at Colon and Ashland until 1949. For the next decade he was pastor in Indianola and Dean of the Indianola Deanery. On December 22, 1949, he was named a Domestic Prelate. From 1959 to 1969, Monsignor Barry served as pastor in Fairbury and Dean of the Fairbury Deanery. His other assignments were Superior and Nelson from 1969 to 1970 and Davey from 1970 to 1977.

Because of ill health, Msgr. Barry retired on April 1, 1977, however, he continued many of his priestly activities. These included being chaplain of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas beginning on September 6, 1978, and also serving as chaplain for the School Sisters of Christ the King from 1988 to 1993.

Four months after celebrating his 100th birthday, God called his faithful servant to his eternal home on November 10, of the great Jubilee Year. The Holy Mass was offered in the Cathedral on November 14, with burial in Calvary Cemetery.

In his homily, Msgr. Ivan Vap referred to the Christ-like charity of this Christ-like priest, who during the century of his life had the privilege of knowing all eight bishops who have served the Diocese of Lincoln.

"Knowledge puffs up, but charity edifies.” 1Cor.8:1
November 10, 1980

Rev. Daniel J. Finnegan, O.M.I.

Daniel J. Finnegan was born on January 13, 1905, in Lowell, Massachusetts. He studied at St. Canisius College, Buffalo, New York and Oblate College, The Catholic University, Washington, D.C. He was ordained on June 9, 1931, at the Immaculate Conception Shrine, Washington, D.C.

Father Finnegan was sent to the Diocese of Lincoln in 1934. He was stationed in McCook and from there he cared for the parishes at Trenton, Wauneta and Palisade.

On December 24, 1936, Bishop Kucera informed Father Finnegan that he and Bishop Tief of Concordia, Kansas, had agreed to exchange faculties, in order that the Catholics along the Kansas border might be served more efficiently. Father Finnegan was given faculties of the Diocese of Concordia, and the priests at Herndon, Kansas, were given faculties of the Diocese of Lincoln.

Before Father Finnegan was transferred outside of the diocese in September, 1938, Bishop Kucera sent this message to Father Finnegan: 'We have always regarded you as a very worthy priest and your work in the missions attached to McCook has been satisfactory in every way. I know that the people who learned to love you and to respect you as their priest will miss you for a long time... While we appreciate the fact that you leave in obedience to the call of your superior, we cherish the hope that some day in a not distant future you superior will find it possible to return you to Lincoln.”

Father Finnegan spent the remainder of his years in the East. He made the transition to eternal life November 10, 1980.
November 11, 1961    Rev. Charles A. Bauer, C.P.P.S.

Charles A. Bauer was born on January 2, 1891. He joined the Precious Blood Society and studied for the priesthood at Saint Charles Seminary, Carthagena, Ohio. He was ordained on May 16, 1920. He was stationed in Detroit for seven years and in North Dakota for ten years.

In October, 1937, Father Bauer was appointed pastor of St. Benedict Church, Nebraska City. He directed the construction of a rectory and the renovation of the church. Because of illness, he had to resign his pastorate in 1949. He died at St. Francis Hospital, Shakopee, Minnesota, November 11, 1961.

November 11, 1902    Rev. Timothy J. Bruen

Timothy J. Bruen was born May 18, 1870, in County Galway, Ireland. He studied in Waterford, Ireland, and at Saint Mary’s University in Baltimore, Maryland. He was ordained June 20, 1895, by Bishop Alfred A. Curtis, for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Bruen was appointed to Saint Theresa Pro-Cathedral and served there until the end of the year 1895. Then in 1896, he was stationed at Sutton for about six months. The remainder of the year he spent in the hospital. After recovering from his illness he returned to the cathedral and served there from 1897 to 1899, when again he became ill. In 1902, he returned to Ireland and died there November 11, 1902, at the age of 32 years.
Martin, son of William Schoenberg and Eleanor Braun, was born on June 15, 1916, in Spring Hill, Minnesota. After attending Crosier Seminary College in Onamia, Minnesota, Martin entered the novitiate of the Immaculate Conception Monastery in Hastings, Nebraska, in 1934. He made his religious Profession on August 28, 1935. On June 28, 1940, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Louis B. Kucera in the monastery chapel in Hastings.

Recognizing his unusual intellectual ability, the administrators of the Crosier Order gave Father Schoenberg the opportunity to pursue graduate studies. In 1945, Father Schoenberg was awarded a S.T.L. degree from the Catholic University in Washington, D.C. The following year he enrolled in the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome where he completed the requirements for a S.S.L. degree in 1948. From 1956 to 1958 he studied at the Gregorian University in Rome where he graduated with a Doctorate in Sacred Theology.

With this background, Father Schoenberg was well-prepared to teach Sacred Scripture to the Crosier seminarians. The Universities where Father Schoenberg taught include the University of San Francisco, Seattle University, Notre Dame University, and St. John's University. While teaching the seminarians in Hastings, Father Schoenberg was also pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Kenesaw, Nebraska, from 1950 to 1955.

Father Schoenberg completed his earthly pilgrimage on November 11, the feast of his patron, Saint Martin of Tours. The Holy Mass of Christian Burial was offered on November 14, in Hastings by the Very Rev. James G. Moeglein, O.S.C. Burial was in the monastery cemetery.

"When wisdom comes into your heart and knowledge is a delight to you, then prudence will be there to watch over you."

Pr. 1:10-11.
For sixty-one years, Father Schoenberg served Christ and His Church through a life consecrated to God by the evangelical counsels.

In his Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation on *Consecrated Life*, published March 25, 1996, Pope John Paul II referred to the special value of the consecrated life. In No. 32, the Holy Father wrote:

"As a way of showing forth the Church's holiness, *it is to be recognized that the consecrated life, which mirrors Christ's way of life, has an objective superiority.* Precisely for this reason, it is an especially rich manifestation of Gospel values and a more complete expression of the Church's purpose, which is the sanctification of humanity. The consecrated life proclaims and in a certain way anticipates the future age, when the fullness of the Kingdom of heaven, already present in its first fruits and in mystery, will be achieved."
Edward C. Tuchek was born on February 28, 1914, in Protivin, Iowa. He studied at St. Procopius College, Lisle Illinois; St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota; and St. John Seminary, Little Rock, Arkansas. He was ordained on May 15, 1940, in St. Mary Cathedral, Lincoln by Bishop Louis B. Kucera.

His assignments were: St. Mary Cathedral, Lincoln 1940-1943, Appleton 1943-1944, and Holy Rosary, Plattsmouth 1944-1952. On December 27, 1952, Father Tuchek was appointed Director of St. Thomas Orphanage and chaplain of the State Penitentiary.

On April 6, 1959, Father Tuchek began his long career as Director of Catholic Social Service Bureau in addition to his duties at the orphanage. On September 8, 1959, he was named Parish Priest Consultant.

In August of 1966, Father Tuchek transferred his residence from St. Thomas Orphanage to Cristo Rey south of Lincoln. After serving for 26 years as Director of Catholic Social Service, Father Tuchek resigned in 1984, and became senior assistant at Sacred Heart Parish, Lincoln. On March 1, 1985, he retired and resided at Saint Benedict Rectory, Nebraska City. God summoned this faithful priest to his heavenly home on November 14, 1986.

Father Tuchek’s guiding principle was: “Be kind to your fellowmen and they in turn will be kind to others.” A list of his kind deeds would fill pages. They include kindness to returning war veterans, Cubans, Vietnamese, and delinquents.
James C. Freeman was born on September 2, 1847, near Dubuque, Iowa. He attended the Oshkosh, Wisconsin, normal school. Then answering God's invitation to the priesthood, James entered St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee. After one year he had to discontinue because of an eye ailment.

As his sight gradually improved, James began teaching. In 1883, he entered St. Joseph College, Dubuque, Iowa, and completed his preparation for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland. He was ordained on June 3, 1886, by Archbishop (later Cardinal) Gibbons for the Diocese of Omaha which included the entire State of Nebraska. Father Freeman was 39 years old at the time of ordination.

Father Freeman served in Lyons for a few months before being appointed pastor of Auburn on February 3, 1887. From there he attended Brownville, Julian, Burke's Settlement and Talmage. On Sundays when he traveled from Auburn to Talmage with horse and buggy, he had to fast until late in the afternoon.

In April of 1889, Father Freeman was transferred to Wymore with its missions. In Wymore he supervised the construction of a church and rectory. God called his patient and generous servant from this life on November 15, 1915. He was buried in Wymore.
Evan Eckhoff was born on August 28, 1930 in Saint Louis, MO. He was received as a Novice into the Order of Friars Minor in Teutopolis, IL on July 4, 1950. Father Evan professed solemn vows on July 5, 1954, and was ordained a priest on June 24, 1957. In an interview when he was in Knoxville, TN, Father Eckhoff indicated that his three main inspirations for becoming a priest were his two paternal uncles and Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.

Father Eckhoff’s service in his Franciscan community took him to locations in and around the Chicago area, as well as Quincy, Westmont, Oak Brook, and Sherman in Illinois. He also was stationed in Knoxville and Nashville in Tennessee. Throughout his religious life, he brought many souls to Christ through his work in the field of education at the high school level, in retreat work, pastoral duties, jail ministry, and Family Life Ministry. Father Evan is remembered for his inspirational talks when giving retreats during his time as Director of Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House in Waverly, NE from 1975−1978.

Father Evan’s good friend, long-time tennis partner, and classmate, Father Ken Rosswog, OFM, said of him: “I admired Evan as a person who had high ideals and expectations for himself, and put a great deal of effort into achieving the goals he set. He was an inspiration for me. He aimed to live the Franciscan life as it should be lived. He was a very prayerful person and kept reminding me of the importance of meditation and contemplation. Just as he had high expectations for himself, he had high expectations for others also. I admired his spirit of acceptance during these difficult months of ill health. He was able to put his sufferings into the Lord’s hands. He was looking forward to being with the Lord.”

In 2010, Father Eckhoff moved to Sherman, IL into full retirement because of his fragile health. He died on November 15, 2011. May he enjoy eternal peace, resting in the arms of the Lord whom he so loved and served in this life.
“Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received--only what you have given.”

— St. Francis of Assisi
Constantine Vogelmann was born on June 1, 1871 in Wurttenberg, Germany. He joined the Precious Blood Society and studied for the priesthood at Saint Charles Seminary in Carthagena, Ohio. He was ordained on February 14, 1896, by Bishop Nicholas C. Matz at St. Charles Seminary as a member of the Society of the Precious Blood.

After serving in various parishes in the States of Ohio and Illinois, Father Vogelmann was sent by his Provincial to the Diocese of Lincoln. He was appointed pastor of Saint Mary Parish, Nebraska City on December 30, 1909.

While in Nebraska City, Father Vogelmann was appointed to serve on the Commission for New Diocesan Statutes. On October 15, 1911, he sent a report to Bishop J. Henry Tihen concerning the conference held in Nebraska City on October 10.

On November 3, 1911, Father Vogelmann informed Bishop Tihen that his Provincial had ordered him to return to Rome City, Indiana, to recover his health.

After serving the Church as a priest and religious for 27 years, Father Vogelmann died on November 15, 1923.

"Shepherd the church of God,
which he has acquired at the price of his own blood."

Ac. 20:28
Frank L. Loughran was born on July 9, 1865, in Dublin, Ireland. He completed his studies for the priesthood in Rome, and was ordained there on December 21, 1889. Father Loughran was ordained for the Diocese of Lincoln. He came to the United States immediately after ordination.

From 1890-1893, Father Loughran was assistant at Saint Theresa Pro-Cathedral and secretary to Bishop Thomas A. Bonaum. In 1893, he was stationed in Falls City for a few weeks.

In September, 1893, Father Loughran was appointed the first resident pastor of Sutton. He began the publication of The Little Church Bell, for the parishioners in Sutton and Harvard. Besides the parish announcements, it included a question box, a column of adages, a few jokes and articles on such general topics as “Irish Music”. It was distributed on a subscription basis.

From 1900-1901, Father Loughran visited Europe. When he returned, he was assistant at the Pro-Cathedral from 1901-1902 and pastor of Hebron from May to July 1902.

Because of ill health, Father Loughran had to resign his pastorate in July, 1902. He died on November 17, 1904. He was 39 years old.
On February 1, 1917, Ignatius Lempart was born to Anton and Catherine (Kroll) Lempart of Bowlus, Minnesota. He was the youngest of twelve children. He attended grade school in Bowlus and then continued his studies at the Crosier Seminary in Onamia, Minnesota from 1931-1937. In 1937, he entered the Crosier novitiate at Hastings, Nebraska. On August 28, 1938, he professed his religious vows and on May 29, 1943, he was ordained a priest in Hastings by Bishop Louis B. Kucera.

After earning a Master of Science degree in Biology at Catholic University of America, Father Lempart taught Biology at Crosier Seminary in Onamia and Our Lady of the Lake Seminary in Syracuse, Indiana. He also served as an assistant pastor in Goshen (Indiana), Three Rivers (Michigan), Dorr (Michigan), and pastor in Doniphan (Nebraska), Kenesaw (Nebraska), and Grafton (Nebraska). Father Lempart showed great charity toward the sick and their families while serving at Saint Elizabeth Hospital in Lincoln, from 1979 to 1996.

Father Lempart retired to the Crosier Monastery in Hastings in 1996, where he lived until being transferred in November 2000 to a care facility in Onamia, Minnesota. He passed on to meet the Divine Physician on November 17, 2002. Father Lempart’s funeral Mass was held at Holy Cross Church in Onamia, Minnesota and he was buried at the Crosier Cemetery.
“I am not dying; I am entering life.”

-St. Therese of Lisieux
John B. Daxacher was born on October 25, 1818 in Tyrol, Austria. As a young man John Daxacher was married. His wife died in childbirth. After his daughter was married, John began his studies for the priesthood at Innsbruck. He came to the United States about 1860 and was ordained on July 6, 1863 by Bishop James O'Gorman, O.C.S.O., at age 44.

Father Daxacher was immediately appointed as the first resident pastor of Saint John’s in Plattsmouth. Since there was no rectory, he lived with the Fickler family whose home was east of the church. In February of 1864, he was transferred to Omaha.

In 1870, Father Daxacher was sent to Europe for a dual purpose: (a) to arouse interest among seminarians for apostolic work in Nebraska, and (b) to collect funds for the Church in Nebraska.

At age 86, Father Daxacher completed his missionary life. Speaking at his funeral, Bishop Richard Scannell referred to the heroic faith of Father Daxacher and of the hardships he willingly endured in ministering to the spiritual needs of the early Catholic pioneers. The Bishop said that he was one of the band of heroic missionaries who gathered around Bishop O’Gorman in the early days. Bishop Scannell exhorted his listeners not to forget the noble work Father Daxacher had done and to pray frequently for him.

*In the History of Nebraska, published by A. T. Andreas, 1881, Vol. I, page 484, Father Daxacher’s name is incorrectly written as Tekachet.*
Joseph William Loughnot was born November 9, 1873 in Syracuse, New York. He studied at St. Charles College, Ellicott City, Maryland; a Seminary, Montreal Canada; and St. Bernard Seminary, Rochester, New York. He was ordained June 14, 1902 by Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid for the Diocese of Lincoln.


On September 21, 1928, the Chancellor from the Diocese of Syracuse, wrote to Father Loughnot requesting that he consider returning to his native diocese. Father Loughnot accepted this invitation and accordingly resigned from Seward. After Bishop Beckman found a replacement for him, Father Loughran returned to the Diocese of Syracuse on May 11, 1929. He had served in Lincoln for 26 years.

At age 61, God called Father Loughnot from this life on November 18, 1934. Funeral services were held at St. John the Baptist Church, Syracuse, New York.

“My soul is thirsting for God, the God of my life, when can I enter and see the face of God.”

Ps, 42:3.
Father Dominic Weber, O.S.B. was sent to Nebraska City by his Provincial in 1910. He was pastor of Saint Benedict Church from 1909 to 1910, when he was transferred to Valley Falls, Kansas. Father Dominic continued to serve the Church for many more years. He died at Saint Benedict Abbey, Atchison, Kansas, on November 18, 1964.

Father John A. Hayes was ordained about 1866. He came to the Vicariate of Nebraska from St. Gabriel Church in New York City. After spending a few weeks in Omaha, he was assigned to Rulo from 1867 to 1868. His other assignments were: Sioux City 1868-1869, Cheyenne 1869-1870, Plattsmouth 1871-1872, Falls City 1873-1876, Nebraska City 1876-1877, Plattsmouth 1877-1878 and Cheyenne 1879-1882.

During the grasshopper plague, the Catholics of Falls City voted to send Father Hayes to the East to collect funds. His cousin, Father John Buckley, who came to Nebraska to regain his health, cared for the parish. On December 5, 1875, Father Buckely died and was buried under the church.

After only 15 years in the priesthood, Father Hayes died on November 18, 1882.
Mathias Bor was born December 21, 1863, in Chrastavice, Bohemia. He studied in Taus, Bohemia and in Budweis, Bohemia. He was ordained on March 18, 1888, at Saint Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, Wisconsin by Bishop Michael Heis for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Bor’s first appointment was as assistant to Father Maly at Wilber from April 4, 1888 to March 8, 1889. On March 9, 1889, Father Bor was assigned to Wahoo with missions at Brainard and Weston and with residence at Colon in order that Father Lawrence Dunphy might teach him English. Two months later he moved to Wahoo where a residence was constructed for him.

On October 9, 1889, Father Bor was transferred to Wilber where he directed the construction of a new church. In 1892, he returned to Wahoo with Plattsmouth as a mission until 1901, when Weston became the mission.

After attending Weston from Wahoo for fourteen years, Father Bor was named resident pastor of Weston on February 28, 1925. The parishioners of Saint John’s built a new residence for him which he used until his retirement on September 9, 1925.

Two years later, November 20, 1927, God called Father Bor from this earthly life.

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“You, therefore, must be perfect as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

Mt. 5:48.
Bernard Van Gils was born September 8, 1885, in Breda, Holland. He joined the novitiate of the Canons of the Holy Cross in 1906. He made his solemn profession of vows on September 14, 1910, and was ordained as a member of the Canons Regular of the Holy Cross on June 1, 1912.

Father Van Gils' first assignment was to minister to the Dutch immigrants in Minnesota. Other assignments included evangelization in North Dakota and teaching in the Crosier Monastery, Onamia, Minnesota.

In 1933, Father Van Gils was sent to the Crosier Monastery in Hastings. He was subprior 1936-1938, and prior 1938-1944. He was pastor of Highland and Doniphan 1942-1948 and of Kenesaw 1948-1950.

After being a religious for 51 years and a priest for 49 years, God called Father Van Gils to his eternal reward on November 22, 1961.

An editorial in the *Southern Nebraska Register* stated: "This Crosier Father, a patriarch of 76, was a friend of every priest."

"The learned will shine as brightly as the vault of heaven, and those who have instructed many in virtue, as bright as the stars for all eternity."

*Dn. 12:3.*
Otto H. Ekhaml was born August 8, 1908, in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He studied at Saint Paul Seminary and Saint Procopius Seminary in Lisle, Illinois. He was ordained April 20, 1935, by Bishop Louis B. Kucera in Saint Mary Cathedral for the Diocese of Lincoln.


One of the great accomplishments of Father Ekhaml during his 28 years as pastor in Weston was his leadership in the construction of a parochial school. This matter was discussed in 1907, a site was donated in 1933, and finally the school building was blessed in 1954.

Father Ekhaml completed his priestly apostolate on November 22, 1978. Many of his parishioners spoke of his gentleness, and his kindly smile. Displays on bulletin boards in the church and the school were reminders to live the faith that Father Ekhaml worked so hard to pass on to others. One poster stated: “I have fought the good fight to the end. I have run the race to the finish. I have kept the faith. All there is to come now is the crown of righteousness.”
Othmar Francis, son of Peter Missler and Emma Ellerbrock, was born on January 20, 1909 in Glandorf, Ohio. He entered the Society of the Most Precious Blood on September 4, 1923, in Burkettsville, Ohio. There he began his studies for the holy priesthood at St. Mary Preparatory Seminary. He transferred to St. Charles Seminary for his courses in philosophy and theology.

During his second year of Theology, Othmar became seriously ill and as a result had to spend 18 months in the hospital. After his recovery he returned to St. Charles Seminary to complete the requisite courses in Theology. On May 6, 1937, he was ordained at St. Charles Seminary as a priest of the Society of the Most Precious Blood by Bishop Joseph Albers, the Auxiliary Bishop of Cincinnati.

Father Missler's first assignment was as an assistant at St. Augustine Church in Minster, Ohio. Other assignments included Dean of Religion at St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Indiana; Professor of Dogmatic, Ascetical and Mystical Theology at St. Charles Seminary; Spiritual Director of St. Charles Seminary. In 1953 Father Missler was appointed chaplain and instructor of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and of Viterbo College in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

In 1971, Father Missler was sent to the Diocese of Lincoln to serve as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Wallace and Resurrection of Our Lord Parish in Elsie. Through his humility and gentleness, Father Missler left a legacy of selfless service to the Church both in Wallace and Elsie. His kindness and thoughtfulness won the friendship of both Catholics and non-Catholics. Father Missler retired from active ministry on June 1, 1991.

On November 22, the feast of St. Cecilia, God called his faithful priest from this life. Holy Mass and Burial were at St. Charles Seminary in Carthegen, Ohio.

"Nothing seems tiresome or painful when we are working for a Master who pays well, who rewards even a cup of cold water given for love of Him."

-St. Dominic Savio.
We beseech, O Lord, help thy servants, whom Thou hast redeemed with thy Precious Blood.
Bernard Ulbrick was born February 27, 1864, in Nebraska City. He studied at Saint Benedict College, Atchison, Kansas. He was ordained May 1, 1888, by Bishop Louis M. Fink, O.S.B. in Saint Benedict Abbey Church, Atchison, as a member of the Benedictine Order.

Father Bernard was the first native of Southern Nebraska to be ordained to the priesthood. He had been baptized by the tireless missionary, Father Emmanuel Hartig, O.S.B.

After serving the Church for nine years as a Benedictine, Father Ulbrick got a dispensation from his religious vows and came to the Diocese of Lincoln on December 8, 1897, as a diocesan priest.


At the time of his retirement on September 1, 1939, Father Ulbrick spoke of his 29 years of service at Highland and Doniphan. He mentioned that during the first six years when he drove a team of ponies he often had to fast until four o’clock in the afternoon.

Father Ulbrick lived in Hastings until God summoned him on November 23, 1940.
Father Michael Kleczynski was a cousin of Father Eugene J. Feeney, the pastor of Saint Joseph Church, Auburn from 1895 to 1930. He substituted for Father Feeney at Auburn while Father Feeney was serving as a Red Cross chaplain and later as a commissioned chaplain in the United States Army during World War I.

While in Auburn, Father Kleczynski became a victim of the influenza epidemic that plagued Nebraska and so many other states during World War I. Father Kleczynski died on November 24, 1918. He was buried in Auburn.

He Has Proved Himself and Will Receive the Prize of Life

THE CROWN

That the Lord Has Promised to Those Who Love Him.

James 1:12
Patrick Lyons was born in Ardagh, County Longford, in Ireland on August 17, 1919. He attended Saint Mel College in County Longford for instruction in the classics and philosophy, as well as All Hallows College in Dublin for philosophy and theology. Father Lyons was ordained at All Hallows College on June 24, 1945 for the Diocese of Lincoln.

During his priestly ministry, Father Lyons served as Assistant Pastor at Saint Cecilia’s in Hastings (1946-1948); Sts. Peter and Paul’s in Falls City (1948-1949); and Sacred Heart in Lincoln (1949-1950). He then served as Pastor of Holy Trinity in Blue Hill, along with the mission of Ingleside Hospital in Hastings (1950-1960); Saint Michael’s in Hastings, retaining Ingleside Hospital (1960-1970); Sacred Heart in Kenesaw, and Saint Michael’s in Hastings (1970-1971); continuing at Saint Michael’s in Hastings (1971-1989).

Throughout the years 1971-1989, Father Lyons also served as Diocesan Consultor (1985-1990) and Dean of the Hastings Deanery (1986-1989). In 1989, he was assigned as Pastor of Sacred Heart in Hebron, where he remained until his retirement in 1997. During this time period, Father also was the Dean of the Fairbury Deanery (1994-1997).

Upon retirement, Father Lyons took up residence at Bonacum House, where he lived until shortly before his death at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln on Nov. 24, 2015.

A rosary for Father Lyons was held on Nov. 30, 2015, at Butheras, Maser, and Love Mortuary in Lincoln. The funeral Mass was celebrated by Bishop James Conley at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ on Dec. 1, 2015, followed by burial at Calvary Cemetery in Lincoln.
We Loved Him because
He first Loved us.

-1 John 4:19
Father Michael C. Dubreuil, O.M.I. was transferred by his Provincial from Green Bay, Wisconsin to the Diocese of Lincoln in January of 1912. He was given charge of the parish of Saint Ann's in Campbell with the mission of Saint Joseph in Logan. Most of the Catholics in Campbell were of French origin.

During the month of March, 1912, Father Dubreuil had the Stations of the Cross erected in the churches at Campbell and Logan. Bishop J. Henry Tihen administered the Sacrament of Confirmation at Campbell on June 30, 1912.

The picture of Father Dubreuil was donated to the diocesan archives by Helen Beres, who dedicated her life to making the rectory a pleasant place to live. Helen's sister, Tracie Beres, was baptized on May 8, 1912, by Father Michael Dubreuil in Saint Joseph Church, Logan. On that occasion, Father Dubreuil gave the family a post card with his picture on one side and on the other side he wrote: "8 May 1912. Pray for me. Michael C. Dubreuil, O.M.I."

His request for prayers was a very appropriate one. At the time, he probably did not realize that God would call him before he completed his first year in Campbell. Father Dubreuil died on November 25, 1912.
Robert F. Moran was born June 14, 1874, in Liverpool, England. He studied at Epiphany Apostolic College, Baltimore, Maryland; St. Joseph Seminary, Baltimore; and Kenrick Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri. He was ordained June 11, 1907, by Archbishop John J. Glennon for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Although Father Moran was born in England, his parents were of Irish origin. While Robert was still a child, both parents died within one month. With his two brothers and three sisters, he was brought to this country by an aunt and uncle.

Father Moran was chaplain of Saint Thomas Orphanage from 1907 to 1911; pastor of Cheney and Sullivan Settlement (Denton) 1911-1922, and pastor of Blessed Sacrament for a few months in 1922.

Father Moran was injured in an automobile accident, November 23, 1922, at Sixteenth and D Streets. He died as a result of the injuries, November 25, 1922.

Bishop Charles J. O'Reilly gave Father Moran this tribute: “Father Moran was a man of pure life and high aspirations. We do not know why he was taken from us, for we cannot know God's ways. But we can still do something for him - pray for his soul.” W. T. Fenton observed: “Though his life was a constant struggle to secure the necessary education for the priesthood, Father Moran said many times that he loved all the work connected with his holy calling.”
Joseph, son of Mervin and Louise (Rawley) Myers, was born in Falls City, Nebraska, in 1924. He spoke often of how grateful he was for the Catholic education he received at Sacred Heart School in Falls City, where he attended both elementary and high school. Upon his graduation from high school, Joseph began his seminary studies at Saint Thomas in Denver, Colorado. He was ordained at Saints Peter and Paul, Falls City, on June 8, 1949, by The Most Reverend Louis B. Kucera for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Myers began his priestly ministry as the parochial vicar of Saint Joseph Parish, York and Saint Patrick Parish, McCool Junction (1949-1951). In 1949, he was also named diocesan director of vocations. From 1951-1952, Father Myers took a course of training in journalism at the Register office in Denver, Colorado. He was then assigned to further his studies in philosophy at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. After returning to the Diocese of Lincoln, Father Myers was named head of the Diocesan Mission Band (1955-1957). Later he served at St. Vincent de Paul, Seward (1957-1958). While editor of the Southern Nebraska Register, he also was an associate chaplain of the Newman Center (1958-1963), chaplain of the Marian Sisters (1963-1966), and pastor of Saint Joseph Parish in York (1966-1968).

Father Myers went on to teach at the University of Notre Dame and John F. Kennedy College. Later he became a priest of the Diocese of Colorado Springs, where he continued his priestly ministry until his passing into eternal life on November 25, 2009. Father Myers was known for his prolific writings that aimed to glorify God by educating Catholics in the faith and leading others to accept the wisdom of Holy Mother Church. In his booklet “God and Man, the Basic Truths,” Father Myers wrote: “Christ wants us by word and deed to announce His good news, that love is the secret to happiness here and hereafter.”
“This is what it means to be a Christian—to know Christ Jesus and to imitate Him. The more we know Him as He really is, the more He will truly influence our lives.”

From “Getting Ready for Christmas, Advent Reflections for Your Family” by Father Rawley Myers
Eugene Cusson was born February 14, 1841, in Montreal, Canada. He studied at Saint Lawrence College, Montreal, Canada, and at Niagara University, Niagara Falls, New York. He was ordained March 4, 1871, by Bishop Stephen V. Ryan of Buffalo, New York, for the Vicariate of Nebraska.

On May 10, 1871, Bishop James O’Gorman sent Father Cusson to serve as an assistant in Cheyenne. A few months later he was given charge of Laramie, Wyoming.

This missionary traveled many miles in Southeastern Nebraska. From 1884 to 1886, he visited the Catholics in Syracuse and Dunbar. Beginning in 1886, Father Cusson made regular trips to Elmwood where he directed the construction of a church. When the exterior of the building was completed, he constructed a temporary altar and celebrated the first Holy Mass in this building in 1887. Father Cusson also included Palmyra on his circuit until a resident priest was appointed in 1888.

From 1889 to 1892, Father Cusson had charge of Campbell. He acquired property on South Stenart Street and supervised the building of a church on that site. When it was completed, the people dismantled the church in Wheatland and used the material for building a rectory for Father Cusson in Campbell.

After a zealous and active missionary life, God called Father Cusson to his permanent home on November 26, 1898.

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“The souls of the just are in the hand of God, and no torment shall touch them.”

Ws. 3:1.
Elmer C. McFadden was born July 27, 1887, in Belmont, Missouri. He studied at Kenrick Seminary, Webster Groves, Missouri. He was ordained on June 12, 1914, for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. During World War I, Father McFadden served as a chaplain in the United States Armed Forces.

Father McFadden came to the Diocese of Lincoln in 1931. On August 18, 1931, he was given charge of Saint Wenceslaus Church, Milligan and Saint Joseph Church, Tobias. On August 4, 1935 Father McFadden was transferred to Saint Paulinus Parish, Syracuse and Holy Trinity Church, Avoca. He served these two congregations for 27 years.

Father McFadden was the first resident pastor of Syracuse. He lived in a rented house until 1944, when the parish with the help of $1000 from the Extension Society and $1500 from Bishop Kucera acquired a rectory adjacent to the church. Father McFadden moved into this parochial residence on the last day of February, 1944.

Because of his experience as chaplain, Father McFadden served at Camp Ashland while the Nebraska National Guard trained there before World War II. He was also well known as the state director of the American Legion baseball program.

A heart attack claimed the life of Father McFadden on November 26, 1962. Funeral services were in Saint Paulinus Church, Syracuse, and burial in Lincoln.
Francis N. Heising was born April 9, 1841, in Wiedenbrueck, Germany. He studied at Saint Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was ordained on the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows in March, 1876, by Archbishop John M. Henni for the Diocese of Covington, Kentucky.

After serving the Church for 16 years, as a priest of the Diocese of Covington, Father Henni transferred to the Diocese of Lincoln on April 8, 1892. He was given charge of the parish of Saint Joseph in Paul.

After serving the Catholics in Paul for only two and one-half years, Father Heising died at Saint Elizabeth Hospital in Lincoln on November 27, 1894.

In 1894, under the direction of Father Heising, an addition of 20 feet was built to the original St. Joseph Church in Paul.
Father Michael Hofmayr, O.S.B. was born on January 2, 1838, in Toelz, Bavaria. He studied in Germany and at Saint Vincent’s Abbey in Pennsylvania. He professed his religious vows as a member of the Benedictine Order on November 13, 1862. He was ordained May 30, 1866, by Bishop Michael Domenec of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Three years after his ordination, Abbot Boniface Wimmer sent Father Michael to Nebraska. For a few months he resided at Saint Benedict’s in Nebraska City and from there he rode on horseback to minister to the Catholics in Lincoln, Plattsmouth, Tecumseh, Steinauer, Beatrice, Mead and Palmyra.

In September of 1869, Father Michael became the first resident pastor of Lincoln. His first Baptism was recorded in Lincoln on September 26, 1869. Previous to that time the Baptisms were recorded in Nebraska City,

Fear of a Benedictine monopoly in the Vicariate of Nebraska caused many misunderstandings. As a result the Benedictines withdrew from all parishes except Saint Benedict’s in Nebraska City. Father Michael returned to Nebraska City in 1871 and was succeeded in Lincoln by Father William Kelly.

Father Michael died in Chicago, Illinois, on November 28, 1901.

“Many are the troubles of the just man,
but out of them all the Lord delivers him.”

Ps. 34:20
November 28, 1993

Msgr. Sylvester John Wagner

Sylvester Wagner was born May 12, 1903, in Joliet, Illinois. He and his brother Ed excelled in athletics. At age 21, while a student at Gonzaga University, he signed as a pitcher for the Chicago White Sox. A heart condition forced him to discontinue. While at Mayo Clinic, the non-Catholic Dr. Mayo suggested that he study for the priesthood. Encouraged by this remark, Sylvester entered St. Paul Seminary in 1924. After another illness, he resumed his studies at the Catholic University. He was ordained there for the Diocese of Lincoln on June 14, 1932, by Bishop Walsh.

Father Wagner served at Hastings, St. Thomas Orphanage, David City, Osceola, Colon, Shubert, and Roseland before entering the Navy as Chaplain on September 10, 1942. He participated in the invasion of Kiska, Attu, and Okinawa. He was also present when Gen. MacArthur signed the peace treaty with Japan.

After being discharged from the Navy on January 1, 1946, Father Wagner served at Osceola, Harvard, Lawrence, Heartwell, Tecumseh, and Sutton. On April 5, 1955, he was honored with the title of Domestic Prelate.

In his homily Monsignor Timothy Thorburn remarked that Monsignor Wagner was especially devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Every blessing that he gave to individuals concluded with the prayer: “May the Sacred Heart of Jesus keep you strong in your faith.” Monsignor’s last prayer as life was slipping away at dawn on the first day of the Ecclesiastical Year was an expression of love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus. May he and his brother, Father Ed, now enjoy the reward promised to those who honor the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
John Kelly, was born to William and Marie Kelly on March 14, 1916 in Manley, Nebraska. He attended elementary school in rural Cass County, Nebraska. He graduated from Plattsmouth High School and then attended Saint Benedict College in Atchison, Kansas. In 1938, he began his studies for the priesthood at Saint Paul Seminary in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Father Kelly was ordained a priest on April 8, 1944, at Saint Mary Cathedral, Lincoln, by His Excellency, Bishop Louis B. Kucera.

Father Kelly served as an parochial vicar at Saint Mary Cathedral, Lincoln; Saint Joseph, Beatrice; and Saint John, Plattsmouth. He was temporarily released to the Archdiocese of Omaha in order to be of assistance at Boys' Town. Following his two years at Boys' Town, Father Kelly was appointed the first principal of Pius X High School in Lincoln. His later assignments included ministering as pastor of the parishes in Lawrence, Beatrice, Wahoo, Colon, Grant, York, and Exeter. Through much of his priestly life, Father Kelly was the Diocesan Director of the Apostleship of Prayer. He zealously prayed and worked to spread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the practice of observing First Fridays, and the enthronement of the Sacred Heart in parishioners’ homes. He knew the “greatest gift of God’s love to the Church is the Eucharist” and that devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus leads to increased devotion to His Eucharistic Heart (from Father Kelly’s homily, “The Priesthood and Zeal for Souls”). In the homily at Father Kelly’s funeral Mass, Father Borowiak recalled that, “Two of Fr. Kelly’s greatest God-given abilities were that of evangelization and catechesis. His establishment of a relationship with an individual frequently led to that person’s taking instructions to join the Church.”

Father Kelly retired to Bonacum House in 1993. He later moved to Saint Joseph Villa in David City, where he met his eternal reward on November 28, 2007. The funeral Mass was held at Saint Stephen Church, Exeter, on December 3. He was buried in Plattsmouth, Holy Sepulcher Cemetery.
Father Thomas Bartl, O.S.B. was ordained about 1861. At the time of his ordination he asked to be sent to Kansas, but the Abbot of Saint Vincent’s in Pennsylvania refused. A year later, however, he sent him to help establish the priory in Kansas as a true cloister.

It is said that Father Thomas was a God-fearing religious, very zealous, devoted to his work and happy when he could be of service to others. He soon became an outstanding missionary who was tireless in his journeys to the settlements.

In 1874, Father Thomas was sent to Saint Benedict’s in Nebraska City. From there he attended Rulo, Plattsmouth, Brownville, Arago and all missions along the Missouri River.

After almost a quarter of a century of hard work and many deprivations, a heart ailment claimed the life of Father Thomas on November 30, 1885.

“\nThey that hope in the Lord will renew their strength,
they will soar as with eagle’s wings;
they will run and not grow weary, walk and not grow faint.”

Is. 40:31.
Octave Napoleon Turgeon was born October 1, 1848, in St. Charles, County Bellechase, Quebec, Canada. He studied in West Farnham, C. S. C. College, and at Laval in Quebec, Canada. He was ordained September 28, 1884, in the Basilica of Quebec, by Archbishop Fascheraus for the Vicariate of Nebraska.

Father Turgeon arrived in Nebraska November 8, 1884, and was assigned to Hastings. His other assignments were: Wheatland (Campbell) 1885-1888, Rulo 1888-1891, Elsie 1891, Aurora 1891, Colon 1893-1898, no assignment 1898-1911, Ursuline Convent, York 1911, Center 1911, and Burchard 1912-1921.

On November 30, 1921, Father Turgeon completed his earthly pilgrimage at Saint Elizabeth Hospital. He was buried in Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery in Falls City.

It seems that Father Turgeon was unduly influenced by the erroneous spirit of independence that was prevalent during the last years of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century. He lived in an environment where some were trying to prove to the enemies of the Church, particularly, to the members of the American Protective Association, that they were not subject to any authority including that of the Ordinary of the Diocese and the Holy Father in Rome. Acting on that premise, Father Turgeon refused a change in assignment for a number of years. During the last decade of his life, he regretted that attitude.

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"Now, however, you have been set free from sin, you have been made slaves of God, and you get a reward leading to your sanctification and ending in eternal life."  
Rm. 6:22.
John W. Fanning was born January 5, 1908 in Davenport, Iowa. He completed his early education in Davenport, Iowa. He attended Saint Joseph College, in Kirkwood, Missouri and Saint Mary University in La Porte, Texas. At Saint Mary’s he became an instructor in commercial law and English. He also served as registrar for three years at Saint Mary’s.

He completed his studies for the priesthood at Saint Paul Seminary in Saint Paul Minnesota. He was ordained on June 29, 1934. His first assignment was as assistant to Father J. J. Loughran of Immaculate Conception Church, Ulysses.

After a few short months, Father Fanning became seriously ill. He was admitted to Saint Elizabeth Hospital where he made a gallant effort to recover, but he gradually grew weaker until his resistance was exhausted. Pneumonia and a heart ailment claimed his young life on November 30, 1934. He was 26 years old and had served in Christ’s priesthood for just five months.

Funeral services were held at Saint Mary Cathedral, Lincoln, and burial was in Davenport, Iowa.
Charles Frederick Rada was born on July 23, 1911 in Dubuque, Iowa. He studied at John Carroll University, Cleveland, Ohio and St. Procopius Seminary, Lisle, Illinois. He was ordained on April 16, 1938, in St. Mary Cathedral Lincoln, by Bishop Louis B. Kucera for the Diocese of Lincoln.


On April 24, 1963, Father Rada celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. Holy Mass was offered in Immaculate Conception Church in Ulysses, Nebraska. On that occasion he received the apostolic blessing of Pope John XXIII.

After being privileged to spend 43 years of his life in Christ’s priesthood, Father Rada was called home to God, November 30, 1981. Bishop Glennon P. Flavin offered the Mass of Christian Burial at Holy Family Church, Heartwell. Burial was in Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Cleveland, Ohio.