Joseph Maichler was born October 3, 1894, in Erie, Pennsylvania. He studied at Saint Joseph's in Rensselaer, Indiana, and at Saint Charles Seminary in Carthagena, Ohio. He was ordained as a Precious Blood Father in May of 1921 by Archbishop Henry Moeller in the Cathedral of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Father Maichler was sent to the Diocese of Lincoln September 21, 1923. He resided with the members of his society in Nebraska City and was given charge of the Catholics in Dunbar, Avoca, and Peru.

In 1926, Father Maichler was transferred and appointed pastor of Curtis and its missions. He did outstanding work in Southwestern Nebraska. When the Provincial, Rev. Ignatius Wagner C.PP.S., informed Bishop Kucera in 1932, that he intended to change Father Maichler, Bishop Kucera wrote: “I am sorry to note that Father Maichler is to leave the diocese. He has done excellent work and continues to be active for the good of his people. I had hoped that we might have him some day in Nebraska City.”

Father Maichler was sent to Oshkosh in September, 1932. He continued his zealous apostolate until March 1, 1967, when God called him from this life.

“**The salvation of the just is from the Lord; he is their refuge in time of distress.**”

*Ps. 37:39.*
Nicholas Nowicki was born on June 1, 1902, in Ripon, Wisconsin. He attended Saint Bonaventure College in Sturtevant, Wisconsin and Saint Paul Seminary in Saint Paul, Minnesota. He interrupted his preparatory studies for the priesthood after he finished two years of philosophy.

Nicholas served in the United States Navy during World War II, 1942-1945. He was decorated with three gold stars for active combat in South Pacific campaigns. In one of those campaigns, the destroyer to which he was assigned sustained a direct hit. The ship was lost. The only survivors were Nicholas Nowicki and a shipmate.

After his release from the Navy, he completed his studies for the priesthood at St. Procopius Seminary in Lisle, Illinois. He was ordained on May 31, 1952, at St. Mary Cathedral by Bishop Louis B. Kucera.

Father Nowicki’s assignments were: Sacred Heart, Lawrence; St. Mary Cathedral, Lincoln; Saint Mary’s, Shickley; St. Luke’s, Loma, Sacred Heart, Roseland; St. Joseph’s, Holstein; St. Patrick’s, Imperial; St. John’s, Wauneta; St. Germanus, Arapahoe; and St. Michael’s, Oxford.

Father Nowicki retired in 1968. He died on March 1, 1988. Funeral services were at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ with burial in Ripon, Wisconsin. Father Nowicki specified in his will that he wanted no homily to be given at his funeral.
Gerald C. Messman was born on August 15, 1904 in Zwevegem, Belgium, to Frank and Emma Messman. He had one brother and four sisters. Gerald Messman attended boarding school in Dottingnies, Belgium, and St. Umandus boarding school in Courtrai, Belgium. The priests who taught him both in elementary school and secondary school had a major impact on his life. Their influence led Gerald Messman to consider a vocation to the priesthood. The tribulations of World War I caused him to consider leaving Belgium. He decided to come to the United States when he realized the need for priests in America. Father Messman’s home Diocese of Bruges, Belgium was ninety-nine percent Catholic at that time and there were 1,400 priests. He began his preparation for Holy Orders and studied the classics at St. Umandus College, Courtrai, Belgium. Then, he pursued degrees in Philosophy at Petit Leminaire Roulers, and Theology at the American College in Louvain, Belgium. Bishop Francis Beckman, Ordinary of Lincoln, visited Louvain Seminary to search for young men willing to serve God as priests in Nebraska. Father Messman answered the Bishop’s plea.

On July 12, 1931 Father Messman was ordained a priest in Louvain by Bishop John G. Murray for the Diocese of Lincoln. Father Messman served as an assistant at St. Cecilia Parish, Hastings, from 1931 to 1932. He was then assigned as pastor of St. Joseph, Benkelman, and St. Joseph, Stratton (1932-1934), St. John, Cambridge (1934-1938), Sacred Heart, Roseland (1938-1949), and St. Peter, Bellwood (1949-1975). He retired to Duncan, Nebraska in 1975. In 2001, Reverend Gerald Messman was the first priest in the history of the Diocese of Lincoln to celebrate his seventieth anniversary of ordination. When considering those years, he said, “I have found happiness in the priesthood. It has all been well worth it. If I had to do it all over again, I would do it in a minute.” An illness led to his stay at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital in Lincoln where he passed on to eternal life on March 1, 2002. At the funeral, Father Robert Roh spoke of Father Messman’s epitaph, which reads “Parish priest for God and man,” as a definition of who Father Messman was.
Albert Gerhardstein was born on November 5, 1890 and was ordained as a priest of the Most Precious Blood on March 17, 1917.

The first time that his provincial assigned him to the Diocese of Lincoln was in 1927, as pastor of Holdrege and its missions. He served there until 1919.

In 1936, Father Gerhardstein was sent a second time to the Diocese of Lincoln. He was appointed pastor of Saint Mary Church in Nebraska City. The same year he was named chaplain of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in Nebraska City.

Because of illness, Father Gerhardstein was replaced by Father Albin Bauer, C.PP.S. August 13, 1938. After serving God as a Precious Blood Father for 63 years, Father Gerhardstein went to meet his Creator March 2, 1980. He was residing at Saint Charles Seminary in Carthagena, Ohio at the time of his death.

*************** He shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a reward from God his savior.***************

"He shall receive a blessing from the Lord, a reward from God his savior.”

Ps. 24:5.
Howard Hart was born on November 20, 1908, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He studied at Quigley Preparatory Seminary, Chicago; St. Mary Seminary of the Lake, Chicago; and St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee. On May 26, 1934, he was ordained in Milwaukee by Archbishop Samuel A. Stritch for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Hart served as assistant in Beatrice until 1936 when he was appointed pastor of Superior and Nelson. On July 18, 1939, he began his 31-year pastorate at Sacred Heart Parish, Lincoln. He directed the construction of Sacred Heart Church, convent, and rectory. In 1944, Father Hart was appointed chaplain of the University of Nebraska College of Agriculture. On April 5 of the same year, he was named a Domestic Prelate.

On June 18, 1970, Monsignor Hart was appointed pastor of Saint Mary Church, Ashland. After serving God and his Church as a priest for almost 44 years, Monsignor Hart completed his earthly apostolate March 3, 1978. Funeral services were held in Ashland and burial was in St. Joseph Cemetery, Chicago.

At the time of Monsignor's death, Father Edward C. Tuchek wrote: "Only God knows about Monsignor's solicitude for the poor. He referred them to Catholic Charities only after he had made the first contribution to alleviate financial stress."
Louis Harrington was born February 27, 1866, in Massachusetts. He was ordained as a Passionist Father about 1890.

Father Harrington served as a missionary in South America for five years and then applied for admission to the Diocese of Lincoln. He came to Lincoln April 4, 1895, and was assigned to David City from April 13, 1895 to May 1, 1895. Then, he was given charge of Orleans with all its missions in the Republican Valley.

Father Harrington started the construction of the stone church in Orleans. He collected money for this project from his relatives and friends in the Boston, Massachusetts area. In 1897, Red Cloud, Riverton and Superior were entrusted to Father Michael Shine and the spiritual care of Arapahoe was given to Father Harrington of Orleans.

In 1902, Father Harrington left Orleans and went to Texas. After having served as pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church in Dallas for more than a quarter of a century, Father Harrington died on March 4, 1933, in Dallas.

"They are the ones he chose specially long ago
and intended to become true images of his Son,
so that his Son might be the eldest
of many brothers."

Rom. 8:29.
Jeremiah Trecy was born about 1824 in Drogheda, County Louth, Ireland. He was ordained in 1851, by Bishop Mathias Loras in Dubuque, Iowa.

Jeremiah Trecy came to the United States with his parents about 1836. They settled in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. It has been said that he studied at Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

After his ordination in Dubuque, he was assistant at the cathedral parish in that city for a short time. Typical of the priests at that time, his apostolic travels included distant places such as, Fort Randall and Fort Pierre in the Dakotas, Fort Leavenworth in the present State of Kansas, various Indian settlements, and army installations.

On June 2, 1856, he arrived in Jackson, Nebraska, with a group of 60 persons who traveled in 18 covered wagons to establish an Irish colony - St. Patrick settlement - later called St. John City in Dakota County. From there he attended Omaha and Nebraska City. A few years later he established another colony near Burbank, South Dakota, where he directed the construction of a church.

For reasons of health, Father Trecy left Nebraska and worked first in New Orleans and then in Huntsville, Alabama. He served as chaplain during the Civil War. On April 17, 1863, Father Trecy was elected as regimental chaplain by all the company officers. On December 19, 1865, he was given sick leave and returned to Huntsville. In 1882, Father Trecy was admitted to Alexian Brother Hospital where he stayed until his death on March 4, 1889. He was buried in Huntsville.

“The salvation of the just is from the Lord; he is their refuge in time of distress.” Ps. 37:39.
John V. Les Canec was born in Petersburg, Virginia, February 13, 1926. He attended St. Joseph High School in Petersburg and prepared for the holy priesthood at St. Procopius Seminary in Lisle, Illinois. On May 31, 1952, he was ordained by Bishop Louis B. Kucera in St. Mary Cathedral for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Les Canec served at St. Michael Church, Fairbury; St. Mary Hospital, Nebraska City; Immaculate Conception Church, Ulysses; St. John Church, Prague; Assumption Church, Appleton (David City); and St. James Church, Curtis, with missions at Farnam and Wellfleet.

Father Les Canec had strong convictions concerning the inestimable value of Catholic education. While he was stationed in Ulysses, the decision was made to close the public high school and transport the students to another public school. If busing was necessary, Father Les Canec thought the young people should be given the advantage of a Catholic education. Acting on his own initiative, Father Les Canec purchased a used school bus in Leavenworth, Kansas and used it to transport the students to St. Mary High School in David City.

God’s call to eternity came very unexpectedly, “like a thief in the night,” on March 4, 1991. Bishop Glennon P. Flavin was the principal celebrant of the Mass of Christian Burial celebrated in Blessed Sacrament Church in Lincoln on March 8. Burial was at Queen of Heaven Mausoleum in Hillside, Illinois.

"Life is no less beautiful when it is accompanied by illness or weakness, hunger or poverty, physical or mental diseases, loneliness or old age." —Terrance Cardinal Cooke—Statement made shortly before his death, October 6, 1983.
Joseph Tupy was born February 19, 1911, in Veseli, Minnesota. He studied at Nazareth Hall and St. Paul Seminary, both in St. Paul, Minnesota, and at St. Procopius Seminary in Lisle, Illinois. He was ordained on May 6, 1937, in St. Mary Cathedral, Lincoln, by Bishop Louis B. Kucera.

Father Tupy was assistant at St. Mary Parish, David City until 1938. He was pastor of Prague and Cedar Hill 1938-1950, Dwight 1950-1951, Julian and Dunbar 1951-1953, and Holy Rosary in Plattsmouth 1953-1958. Father Tupy was named a Domestic Prelate April 5, 1956. Monsignor Tupy served the people of Plattsmouth until his death March 4, 1958. Funeral services were in Plattsmouth and burial was in Lonsdale, Minnesota.

Ferdinand Wolf was born January 29, 1834, in Schwidheim, Rhenish Prussia. He made his profession of vows in the Benedictine Order July 11, 1858. He was the older brother of Abbot Innocent Wolf, O.S.B.

Father Ferdinand was sent from Pennsylvania to Kansas May 14, 1878. From there he visited the settlements in Southern Nebraska. In 1889, Father Ferdinand was appointed assistant in Nebraska City.

While he was stationed in Nebraska City, Father Ferdinand supervised the construction of the first rectory in Paul. This zealous missionary completed his earthly life March 4, 1914.
George Agius was born on the Island of Malta on January 10, 1873. He studied at the Seminary of Gozo and was ordained on December 21, 1895. Father Agius then enrolled in the Pontifical Seminary in Rome, where he earned a doctoral degree in theology and canon law.

In 1902 Bishop Thomas A. Bonacum invited him to come to Lincoln where he would receive $400 a year with free meals. On his arrival, Father Agius was made secretary to Bishop Bonacum and chancellor of the diocese. His office was a small room adjacent to the sacristy of St. Theresa Pro-Cathedral. While chancellor, Father Agius had charge of Agnew and Cortland. His other assignments were Seward 1912-1916, Geneva 1916-1927 and Plattsmouth 1927-1956.

In 1936, Father Agius was named a Domestic Prelate. The following year, Monsignor Agius was appointed Dean of the Plattsmouth district.

As an official representative of the Diocese of Lincoln, Monsignor Agius went to Rome to witness his former classmate, Pope Pius XII, proclaim the dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on November 1, 1950. At that historic event, Monsignor had a place on the high steps in front of Saint Peter's which was very close to the Papal throne.

In 1956, Monsignor retired from active duty at Plattsmouth and returned to the Island of Malta. After serving the Church for more than 66 years, Monsignor Agius died on March 6, 1962 at age 89.
March 6, 1973  Msgr. Maurice F. Downey

Maurice Downey was born on April 3, 1884 in County Limmerick, Ireland. He studied at All Hallows Seminary in Ireland and was ordained there on June 24, 1910 by Bishop Gilmartin for the Diocese of Lincoln. All Hallows Seminary was an institution that prepared priests to serve in English-speaking countries.

After working in Palmyra and Manley for two weeks, Father Downey was assigned to the vast territory along the Republican River serving the four communities of Alma, Naponee, Riverton, and Bloomington. He resided in Alma and traveled by train to Naponee and Riverton, but had to use a horse and buggy to travel the 49 miles to Bloomington.

Father Downey was pastor of Cambridge and Arapahoe 1916-1931, Sutton 1931-1935, Ulysses 1935-1960, and Blue Hill 1960-1970. He was named a Domestic Prelate on March 16, 1951, and invested at Ulysses on June 21, 1951. On September 25, 1956, Monsignor Downey was appointed Diocesan Consultor.

During his administration, Immaculate Conception Church in Ulysses was destroyed by fire on January 30, 1949. The construction of a new building was started immediately and was ready for dedication on October 3, 1950.

Monsignor Downey had the distinction of serving under the direction of seven bishops in Lincoln. He retired on June 18, 1970. On March 6, 1973, God called his faithful servant from this earthly life.
Adrian Klepac was born on November 10, 1904 in Cleveland, Ohio. He was ordained as a priest of the Benedictine Order on May 22, 1932 in Chicago, Illinois, by Bishop Bernard J. Sheil.

Father Adrian was sent to the Diocese of Lincoln on September 4, 1933, to assist Father Damian Kvitek at Assumption Church in Deweese and Saint Martin Church in Loucky. He was named pastor on May 4, 1934, and continued to serve there until he was recalled to Saint Procopius Abbey on July 24, 1938.

Before leaving the Diocese of Lincoln, Father Adrian expressed this sentiment to Bishop Kucera: “The good fathers within the Exeter Deanery have been very kind and congenial; I enjoyed being with them. I love them all, particularly good Father Becker, whose memory shall always linger in my heart.”

Father Adrian continued his priestly apostolate until God summoned him to his eternal home on March 7, 1984.

“He has favored us according to his mercy and his great kindness.”

*Is. 63:7.*
Dale H. Hardes was born in Polo, South Dakota, in 1937. He attended Ozarks Junior College in Carthage, Missouri and Our Lady of the Snows Major Seminary in Pine Hills, Mississippi. He was ordained as a member of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in 1963.

Father Hardes was sent to Lincoln by his Provincial in 1980. He was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Lincoln.

After two years at Sacred Heart, Father Hardes was transferred outside of the Diocese of Lincoln.

On March 9, 1988, God called Father Hardes to give an account of his stewardship. The funeral Mass was in Saint Casimir Church, St. Paul, Minnesota, on March 13. Burial was in Saint Henry Cemetery, Belleville, Illinois on March 15, 1988.

Be constantly on the watch! Stay awake!
You do not know when the appointed time will come!

Mk. 13:33.
Father Clarence McIntyre, O.M.I. was appointed assistant pastor to Father Francis J. McCullough, O.M.I. at Saint Patrick Church in McCook on October 5, 1960. He replaced Father Francis Campbell, O.M.I., who was transferred to Fayetteville, North Carolina.

Father McIntyre succeeded in developing an outstanding rapport with the parishioners. He loved the people of Saint Patrick's and was actively interested in their spiritual welfare.

About the beginning of March, 1963, he became ill. The doctor suggested that he should go to the Furgeson Clinic in Grand Rapids, Michigan for surgery. Complications developed, poison spread throughout his system, and death came suddenly on March 10, 1963.

Everyone in McCook was deeply saddened by his unexpected death. Funeral services and burial were at the Oblate Novitiate in Tewksbury, Massachusetts.

*****************************************************************
"Our true home is in heaven, and Jesus Christ
whose return we long for
will come from heaven to save us."

_Phil. 3:20_
March 10, 1993  Rev. Godfrey (Francis) Piontkowski, O.F.M.

Francis Piontkowski was born in Chicago on August 17, 1898, the son of Francis Piontkowski and Anne Gruen. He was received into the Franciscan Order on June 18, 1918, and made profession of vows on July 4, 1922. On June 26, 1925, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Joseph A. Murphy, S.J. of Belize, British Honduras.

One of the most challenging assignments of his priestly life began on August 2, 1940, when he arrived in Lincoln as pastor of St. Patrick Parish. The previous year, the church had been sold at public auction in order to pay the debts. Although Bishop Kucera succeeded in getting a loan of $16,000 in Chicago to reclaim the building, there was no money to pay the ordinary bills, much less a salary for the pastor.

With faith in the Providence of God, Father Godfrey began his assignment. Working with volunteers, he began cleaning and painting. While shoveling the unpaid coal, Father Godfrey prayed that the furnace would last for one more winter.

During the eleven years of his pastorate, all parish buildings were renovated, the parochial school was reopened and the debt was liquidated.

At age 94, God called this dedicated son of Saint Francis to eternal life on March 10, 1993, in Chateau Village in Willowbrook, Illinois.

"Well done, good and faithful servant." Mt. 25:21.
Andrew Skvarla was born on September 11, 1899 in Passaic, New Jersey. He studied at Saint Procopius Seminary in Lisle, Illinois and was ordained as a priest of the Benedictine Order on May 9, 1929.

Father Andrew did graduate work at Columbia University in New York from 1929 to 1930, and again from 1931 to 1933.

In 1935, Father Andrew was sent to Dwight and appointed as superintendent of the Assumption Schools in that town. He was transferred from the Diocese of Lincoln in July of 1937.

Father Andrew completed his service to the Church on March 11, 1985, when God called him from this life.

“I waited, waited for the Lord, and he stooped down to me; he heard my cry.” Ps. 40:2.
Vincent Newton was born on December 11, 1904, in Providence, Rhode Island. He studied at Saint Mary’s College, Northeast, Pennsylvania; Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island; and the Oblate Scholasticate, Washington, D.C. He was ordained as an Oblate on June 9, 1931.

After ordination, Father Newton attended The Catholic University and was awarded a S.T.L. degree in 1932. He continued graduate studies from 1933 to 1934.

Father Newton was a professor of Canon Law and an instructor in English at Holy Angels College, Buffalo, New York from 1934 to 1936.

In 1936, Father Newton began missionary work at Saint Patrick Church in McCook with the missions of Trenton, Palisade, and Wauneta. On May 3, 1936, he was given charge of the missions of Saint Ann and Sacred Heart. Father Newton served there until he was transferred to Lowell, Massachusetts, on August 4, 1939.

After 45 years as an Oblate of Mary Immaculate, Father Newton died in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, on March 11, 1976.

“*I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread shall live forever.*”

*Jn. 6:51.*
Gregory Petrus was born on March 28, 1908 in Chicago, Illinois. He studied at Saint Procopius Seminary in Lisle, Illinois, and was ordained as a member of the Benedictine Order on May 26, 1935 by Bishop Bernard J. Sheil.

As a member of the Benedictine Order, Father Gregory served as an assistant at Dwight and as superintendent of Assumption High School in Dwight from 1937 to 1942. After being granted an indult of exclaustration from the Benedictine Order, Father Petrus was incardinated in the Diocese of Lincoln on August 7, 1944, to fill the need for a priest who knew the Czech language.

Father Petrus was assistant at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Lincoln from 1944 to 1946. He was pastor in Osceola for a short time in the summer of 1946, when a need arose for a Czech-speaking priest in Deweese and Loucky. Accordingly, Father Petrus was transferred and served those two places from 1946 to 1954. His other pastorates were Burchard and Table Rock 1954-1962, and Seward 1962-1971.

Aloysius Piorkowski was born on September 13, 1905 in Chelniza, Poland. He was ordained on June 15, 1935 at Pelplin, Poland, by Bishop Stanislaus Okoniewski, Bishop of Chelminski Diocese, Poland. After serving as assistant at St. Mary Church, Gdyni, Poland, Father Piorkowski was appointed chaplain of the M. S. Batory Vessel of the Gdynia-American Lines.

Father Piorkowski came to the United States in October of 1939 and was stationed in Park Ridge, Illinois. He came to Lincoln on July 15, 1947, and was appointed assistant at Saint Wenceslaus in Wilber.

On August 7, 1947, Father Piorkowski was appointed the first resident pastor of Cortland with Crab Orchard as a mission. He supervised the construction of a rectory in Cortland, which Bishop Kucera blessed in November of 1950.

On March 14, 1954, the Crab Orchard mission was separated from Cortland, and Father Piorkowski was appointed an auxiliary chaplain of the Lincoln Air Force Base. During his time as chaplain he also directed the construction of a new church in Cortland. On May 15, 1959, Father Piorowski was given a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding services as auxiliary chaplain of the Lincoln Air Force Base from 1953 to 1959.

Thomas, son of Dr. Thomas J. O'Donnell, a physician, and Anna Mae Brophy, was born on March 8, 1918, in Baltimore, Maryland. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1938. He studied at Saint Charles Seminary in Catonsville, and Woodstock Theological College of Georgetown University. On June 18, 1950, he was ordained by the Most Reverend Francis P. Keough in Woodstock, Maryland.

Shortly after his ordination, Father O'Donnell was appointed Regent of the Georgetown University Medical School. From 1952 to 1962, Father also taught medical ethics and lectured widely on this topic. He was a teacher, not only in the United States, but also in Rome, the Philippines and Australia. He was an advisor to the Holy See and the Bishops of the United States in the area of ethical and religious directives for healthcare facilities. His book Medicine and Christian Morality is considered a standard in the field of medical ethics.

In May of 1985, Father O'Donnell was assigned to the Diocese of Lincoln as Rector of the Diocesan Seminary and Director of Good Counsel Retreat House near Waverly. He continued this apostolate until 1993 when he retired and returned to Georgetown.

He was known, both in active ministry and retirement, as an expert and compassionate director of souls. His sense of humor always served as a source of joy and encouragement to all those whom he encountered.

In retirement, his first priority continued to be offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the assiduous practice of his Jesuit spirituality, until God called him from this life on March 13, 1997.

On March 21, 1997, a Memorial Mass was offered for him by the Most Reverend Fabian W. Bruskewitz in the Chapel of Our Lady of Good Counsel Retreat House. In his homily, Monsignor Timothy Thorburn remarked that Father O'Donnell was "first and foremost a holy priest who loved the Holy Mass."

"I will go to the the Altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and I will praise Thee with the lyre, O God, my God."

Psalm 42
James Casey was born on September 22, 1914, in Osage, Iowa. He studied at Loras College and then was sent by Archbishop Beckman to Rome. There he completed his theological studies and was ordained on December 8, 1939, by Bishop Ralph L. Hayes, rector of the North American College in Rome.

Father Casey was assistant and teacher at the parish high school in Independence, Iowa before being assigned as chaplain in the United States Navy. When he returned from the Navy after two and one-half years of service, Father Casey was sent to The Catholic University, where he earned a doctorate in canon law.

He held various positions in the Dubuque Archdiocese before being named auxiliary bishop of Lincoln in April of 1957. He was ordained to the episcopacy on April 24, 1957, but before he arrived in Lincoln, Bishop Kucera died on May 9. About two months later, Bishop Casey was appointed the Ordinary of Lincoln and was installed on September 4, 1957.

During his ten years as Bishop of Lincoln, Bishop Casey conducted an extensive building program. On February 22, 1967, he was named Archbishop of Denver and served there until his death on March 14, 1986.

At the time of his death, Bishop Richard Hanifen of Colorado Springs said that Archbishop Casey "tried to bring glad tidings to the lowly when he was low himself, tried to heal the broken-hearted while his own heart was broken....."
John Mueller was born on April 15, 1854 in Wallendorf, Kreis Bitburg, in the Rhenish Province of Prussia. He studied in Germany and at Saint Francis Seminary in Wisconsin. He was ordained on June 24, 1880 by Archbishop M. Heiss of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

His first assignment was at Exeter as assistant to Father John Jennette. He was the first German-speaking priest in Exeter since Father Ferdinand Lechleitner was transferred in 1877. He served as pastor of Ridgely 1881-1883.

Bishop James O’Connor appointed him pastor of Luxemburg in 1883. During his pastorate, Father Mueller directed the construction of the first parochial residence in Luxemburg.

Referring to Father Mueller’s services in Luxemburg, Father John J. Hoffman wrote in his parish bulletin: “He was not only a priest of solid piety, but he was a scholar of great learning and a man endowed with splendid oratorical ability. He also had a great deal of humor and natural wit, and many pleasant memories are recorded in the tradition of the history of Luxemburg Settlement during his pastorate.”

In the spring of 1887, Bishop O’Connor appointed Father Mueller as Rural Dean of Hartington and irremovable rector of Saint Helena Parish in Omaha.

Father Mueller retired on July 1, 1922, and completed his earthly apostolate on March 14, 1930.
Robert Roh was born on September 16, 1939 in Bruno. He attended St. Benedict College in Atchison, Kansas and Catholic American College and Gregorian University, both in Rome, Italy. Father Roh was ordained on July 11, 1965 at Church of the Apostles in Rome by Bishop Francis Reh for the Diocese of Lincoln.

His first assignment was as Assistant Pastor at St. Joseph Parish, Beatrice (1966-1968). From June 1968 until June 1969, he held the position of Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. In 1969, Father Roh was made Head of the Religion Department in the Hastings Catholic Schools, serving in this capacity until September of 1971. Taking time off to attend Notre Dame University for a few months, he returned as Assistant Pastor at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Lincoln (January-July, 1972).

Father Roh continued his active ministry as Director of Religion and full-time teacher of Religion at Aquinas High School in David City (1972-1988); Administrator then Pastor of St. Peter Parish, Bellwood (1975-1988); Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Falls City, as well as Superintendent of Falls City Catholic Schools, and Dean of the Falls City Deanery (1988-2015). In 2007, he was named Prelate of Honor and received the title of Monsignor from Pope Benedict XVI.

Monsignor Roh retired in 2015 and took up residence in Falls City. He later moved to St. Joseph Villa in David City. He was called to his eternal home on March 14, 2022. The Rosary for Msgr. Roh was March 17, 2022 at the Roh Activity Center at Sacred Heart School in Falls City. The Mass of Christian Burial was on March 18, 2022 at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln. Also on the evening of March 18, a Rosary was prayed at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Abie. On March 19, 2022, there was a Memorial Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish followed by burial in Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Abie.
March 18, 1932  Rev. John J. Murphy

John Murphy was born in March, 1869 in County Tipperary, Ireland. He studied at All Hallows Seminary in Dublin, Ireland, and was ordained there in June, 1902, by Bishop Donnelly for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Murphy came to the United States during the last days of September in 1902. Bishop Thomas A. Bonacum gave him charge of Davey. After serving in Davey for ten years, he was pastor of Minden from 1912 to 1913, when he was transferred to Beaver Crossing and Utica. In September of 1916, Father Murphy was named pastor of Rulo and Arago, where he worked for more than fifteen years.

On February 25, 1932, Father Murphy informed Bishop Louis B. Kucera that the doctor had ordered him to go to the hospital for an examination. There he was assured that his condition was not serious. Nevertheless, three weeks later, March 18, 1932, Father Murphy died.

"Everyone who has given up home, brothers or sisters, father or mother, wife of children, or property for my sake, will receive many times as much and will inherit

EVERLASTING LIFE!"

*Mt. 19:29*
Patrick Lynch was born in Ireland and educated at All Hallows College in Dublin, Ireland. He was ordained in Dublin on June 24, 1873 by Bishop Whelan for the Vicariate of Nebraska. Shortly after his ordination, Father Lynch left his native Ireland and came to do missionary work in the United States.

His first assignment in Nebraska was as assistant at the Cathedral in Omaha from 1873 to 1874, when he was transferred to Saint John’s in Columbus, Nebraska. From 1875 to 1878, Father Lynch was pastor at North Platte. Then, for six years he was pastor of St. John’s in Plattsmouth. His other assignments included Grand Island and Wood River in Nebraska and several parishes in the Diocese of Dubuque. He finished his missionary apostolate March 19, 1907, in Britt, Iowa.

Father Lynch was the last survivor of the priests who served the Church under Bishop O’Gorman, the first Apostolic Vicar of Nebraska. Father Eugene Hagedorn, in his book, *The Franciscans in Nebraska*, stated: “He endured the inconveniences and hardships of pioneer days and he did his work well wherever he was sent. His simple piety and kindly manner won him friends in every community he visited. He was a true priest of God, and he was recognized as such by all who knew him.”
Michael Pazourek was born January 6, 1884, in Strelitz, Moravia. He studied in Bruen and Kremsier before coming to the United States. He continued his education at Saint Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Maryland, and was ordained June 21, 1910, by Cardinal Gibbons for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father Pazourek was stationed in Dwight from 1910 to 1925. During his administration the parish debt was liquidated and a new hall, church, and school were built.

After leaving Dwight, Father Pazourek spent a short time in Wilber and Touhy before being assigned to Weston in 1925. After six years as pastor of Saint John's, Father Pazourek was transferred to Loma in 1931. While in Loma, he celebrated his silver sacerdotal jubilee, July 7, 1935. Under his direction, a new rectory was constructed in Loma and a hall was purchased.

In 1938, Father Pazourek began his 22 years as pastor of Bee. He retired on August 17, 1956, and resided in Dwight. On March 19, 1958, God summoned Father Pazourek to his heavenly home.

Speaking at the funeral of Father Pazourek, Father Jerome Pokorny said: "As a child I heard Father Pazourek every Sunday expound the Word of God, and I sat at his feet every Saturday for catechism classes. I could not always understand the words he was teaching, but I could understand his works and example."
Clarence Crowley was born on March 4, 1911 in Stone City, Iowa. He studied at Columbia College in Dubuque, Iowa; and at Saint Paul Seminary in Saint, Paul, Minnesota. He was ordained on May 6, 1937 in Saint Mary Cathedral, Lincoln, by Bishop Louis B. Kucera.

Father Crowley was assistant in Beatrice 1937-1938 and at Saint Cecilia in Hastings 1938-1944. He was pastor in Hebron from 1944 to 1958. Under his direction the church was renovated and a few months after the completion of that project, a tornado destroyed the entire parish plant. Under the supervision of Father Crowley an entirely new parish plant was constructed and dedicated by Bishop Kucera on September 8, 1954.

On April 8, 1955, Father Crowley was named a Domestic Prelate. He was invested in Hebron on May 26, 1955. Monsignor Crowley was appointed pastor of Holy Family Church in Lincoln on April 15, 1958. Here he was actively involved in transforming Holy Family Parish into the Cathedral of the Risen Christ Parish. Monsignor served as chaplain of the Serra Club from 1966 to the time of his death on the feast of Saint Joseph, March 19, 1986.

Monsignor Crowley was a promoter of perpetual Eucharistic adoration, a recruiter for candidates to the priesthood, a friend of Catholic education, and a loyal priest of the Church.
March 19, 1999

Rev. Robert Hugo Smith

Robert Smith, the second of 18 children of John Smith and Mabel Scott, was born July 26, 1917, in Mc Callsburg, Iowa. Father Smith’s mother belonged to the Orange Irish who were known for their bitterness toward the Catholic Church. Through the grace of God and the example of her husband whom she married on June 25, 1913, she became an exemplary Catholic on January 26, 1914.

After serving in World War II, Robert’s mother asked him what he intended to do with his life. After a moment’s hesitation, Robert replied, “I always wanted to be a priest, but I am just too dumb.” With his mother’s encouragement, he succeeded in passing the entrance exam for admission to college.

Robert made many unsuccessful attempts to complete his education for the priesthood until Bishop Kucera, seeing the deep and simple faith of this young man with an unbounded love for the blessed Mother, accepted him as a seminarian for the Diocese of Lincoln. He was ordained on May 3, 1956, by Bishop Loras Lane in Sumner, Iowa.

Father Smith served as an assistant at Saint Mary in Lincoln and Saint Wenceslaus in Wahoo. In 1961 he was appointed pastor of Alma, Bloomington and Naponee. He remained there until his retirement in 1995.

Charity was his outstanding virtue. He would work hard helping the farmers with the harvest and then use the money he earned to help the poor, especially the seminarians in Mexico.

With complete trust in the powerful intercession of our Blessed Mother, the Rosary became his constant prayer. In his homily at the Funeral Mass, Father M. James Divis mentioned that the hitchhikers who requested a free ride in Father’s old truck were unaware they would have to join in praying the Rosary during the ride.

Father Smith never made the headlines, his sermons were never highly praised, he received no public honors, yet his constant prayers to Mary must have brought many people closer to her Divine Son.
Thomas Holoman was born to John and Mary (Tressa) Holoman on January 1, 1928, in Calumet, Pennsylvania. After finishing his grade school education at Saint Florian and his high school education at Hurst, he studied philosophy at Saint Vincent College, Latrobe, Pennsylvania. His seminary studies were completed at Conception Abbey in Conception, Missouri. Bishop Hugh Lamb ordained Father Thomas Holoman for the Diocese of Lincoln at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg, Pennsylvania on June 4, 1955.

Father Holoman served as an assistant pastor at Saint Andrew, Tecumseh; Saint Michael, Hastings; and Saint Joseph, York. Later he was assigned as pastor of the parishes in Curtis, Wellfleet, Farnam, Cheney, Bee, Lincoln-Saint John and Saint Joseph, Brainard, Loma, and Denton. Father Holoman was the founding pastor of Saint Joseph Parish, Lincoln. In June 1991, he was invested as an Honorary Prelate and given the title Monsignor. During various times of his priestly ministry, Monsignor Holoman served as pro-life director for the Diocese, director of cemeteries, director of Catholic Social Services, and chaplain at Veterans Hospital and Saint Elizabeth Hospital in Lincoln.

In 2005, after two years of retirement, Monsignor Holoman moved to Greensburg, Pennsylvania. On March 19, 2011, the feast of Saint Joseph, the Lord providentially brought Monsignor Holoman to his eternal reward. The funeral services were held at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ on March 26. He was later buried in Pennsylvania. Father Charles Townsend, homilist at the funeral Mass, recalled that Monsignor Holoman loved Jesus, loved to pray, loved the Holy Mass, loved the Blessed Virgin Mary, was adamantly pro-life, worked hard, and had a tremendous sense of humor.
George Glauber was born on May 2, 1853, in Buffalo, New York. He studied at Niagara Seminary in Buffalo, and was ordained there on December 22, 1877. He came to the Vicariate of Nebraska on January 10, 1878 and was sent to Saint Theresa Church in Lincoln to serve as assistant for two months.

On March 25, 1878, Father Glauber was appointed the first resident pastor of Saint Cecilia in Hastings with its many missions. There was neither a church nor a rectory in Hastings when this young priest arrived. Thomas Farrell offered him hospitality in his home. Father Glauber took his meals at a boarding house.

Three days after his arrival, Father Glauber called a meeting of the Catholics in the area. At this meeting it was decided to build a church and name it in honor of Saint Cecilia. Some of the missions visited by Father Glauber were Kenesaw and Roseland in Adams County, Fairfield and Harvard in Clay County, Aurora in Hamilton County, Red Cloud and Wheatland, in Webster County, Riverton and Republican City in Franklin County, Melrose in Harlan County and Arapahoe in Furnas County. The majority of these missions were visited by getting a ride on wagon loads of lumber, corn or merchandise, drawn by ox, mule or horse.

Father Glauber was transferred to Omaha on July 22, 1881. Since he was there when the diocese was divided, he spent the remainder of his life in the Diocese of Omaha. God called this missionary priest to his permanent home on March 21, 1909.
Stephen F. Weigand was born on June 4, 1865, in Wapkoneta, Ohio. He studied at Saint Mary Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was ordained there as a Precious Blood Father on April 1, 1900, by Bishop Patrick James Donahue.

On February 6, 1915, Father Weigand was appointed pastor of Saint Benedict Parish in Nebraska City. He was the successor of Fr. Sixtus Meyer, C.PP.S., and the second Precious Blood Father to serve as pastor of Saint Benedict’s.

When Father Weigand arrived he found a small four-room rectory. Under his supervision, a portion of the old convent was moved, thus enlarging the rectory to an eight-room residence.

Father Weigand served in Nebraska City until 1919, when he was transferred outside of the diocese. He died at Saint Peter Parish, Winamac, Indiana, on March 21, 1933.

"The Kingdom of Heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field."

_Mt. 13:24._
March 23, 1950       Rev. William T. McKenna

William McKenna was born on September 23, 1873, on Prince Edward Island, Canada. He studied at St. Dunstan College, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island; and at Saint Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland. He was ordained on August 16, 1896, at Iona, Prince Edward Island, by Bishop J.C. McDonald for the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father McKenna’s assignments included Fairbury, Steinauer, Seward, Red Cloud, Exeter, Nebraska City, Center, Grafton, Aurora, Ulysses, Hastings, Wymore, Saint Thomas Orphanage, Odell, Nelson, Saint Elizabeth Hospital, Burchard, Table Rock, Sutton and Our Lady of Perpetual Help Hospital in Falls City.

In January of 1949, Father McKenna retired. He died at Saint Elizabeth Hospital on March 23, 1950. Funeral services were at Saint Mary Cathedral in Lincoln and burial was in Calvary Cemetery in Lincoln.

At the burial service, Bishop Kucera remarked that there are “many people who want to be kind, pleasant and happy, but they do not know how. Father McKenna was an exception. His happiness in the face of many trials had its source in his deep religious faith. He realized that love of God is inseparable from love of neighbor. That is why Father McKenna, though a priest for more than 50 years, remained kind, pleasant and happy as a child to his dying day.”
Peter O’Loughlin was born on August 18, 1885 in County Clark, Ireland. He studied at Mt. Mellary in Ireland. After coming to the United States he studied at St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee and then was sent to the American College in Rome. He was ordained in Rome on December 21, 1907. He earned doctorates in philosophy and theology.

Father O’Loughlin was assigned to Minden, Fairbury and York before going to St. Theresa ProCathedral in 1909. He was named Chancellor in 1912, and rector of Saint Mary Cathedral in 1918.

On April 6, 1927, he was made a Domestic Prelate and on October 14, 1929, a Protonotary Apostolic.

In 1937, Monsignor O’Loughlin relinquished rectorship of the Cathedral and went to Crescent City, California. He was pastor there until his retirement in 1964. He died there on March 23, 1968.

March 23, 1943 Rev. Anthony Pax, C.PP.S.

Father Anthony Pax, C.PP.S. was sent to Curtis in 1923. In addition to caring for the parishioners of Saint James Parish, Father Pax had charge of the mission at Farnam and the stations at the Bohemian Settlement in Hayes County; Wellfleet in Lincoln County; and Dickens in Lincoln County. He served this area in the western portion of the diocese until 1927. Father Pax died on March 23, 1943.
James Halligan was born September 23, 1918, in Drumloher, Longford, Ireland. He studied at Saint Mel College in Longford and later at All Hallows College in Dublin. Upon entering the seminary, Father Halligan knew that he would be called to serve in a foreign land. This call to be a missionary was fulfilled on June 20, 1943, when he was ordained at All Hallows College for the Diocese of Lincoln.

After his arrival in the Diocese, Father Halligan served as a parochial vicar at Saint Mary Parish, Lincoln. He went on to serve as assistant pastor at Hastings (Saint Cecilia) and Falls City. Father Halligan was pastor in Alma, Bloomington, and Naponee (1948-1952), Juniata (1952-1959), Tecumseh (1959-1973), and Auburn (1973-1993).

In 1993, Father Halligan retired from active ministry and returned to his native Ireland. There he died in his hometown on March 23, 2003. The funeral Mass and burial were held in Ireland. A Memorial Mass was celebrated at Saint Joseph Church, Auburn, on April 1.

Monsignor Charles Keenan remembers Father Halligan as a kind, happy, gentle, priest who faithfully served the people of God for sixty years. In the homily at the Memorial Mass, Monsignor Keenan remarked “On the occasion of a funeral, I try to think of one word that would tell us what we loved about the deceased. The word that came to me as characteristic of Father James was forthright.”
Zygmund Rydz was born to Boniface and Mary Anna Rydz on February 9, 1921, in Poland. He had two brothers and two sisters. He entered the seminary in 1938, following his graduation from high school. His seminary studies were interrupted by the Second World War. He was captured by the Russians and held in Siberia. Later, he and several other Polish men were sent to Northern Africa where they served as soldiers in the English army.

In 1942, he enrolled at Saint Joseph's French University, College of Theology in Beruit, Lebanon, where he continued his seminary studies. In 1946, he transferred to Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan. Bishop Louis B. Kucera ordained Father Rydz on March 27, 1948.

Father Rydz served as an assistant pastor at Saint Joseph Parish, Beatrice; Sacred Heart Parish, Lawrence; and Saint Teresa Parish, Lincoln. In 1952, he began studying music at Pius X School of Music in Purchase, New York. He returned to the Diocese to teach Church music in the Lincoln Catholic schools. Later, he served as chaplain at the State Penitentiary, and assistant pastor at Cathedral Parish, Lincoln; and Blessed Sacrament Parish, Lincoln. Father Rydz was pastor of the parishes in Julian, Dunbar, and Peru (1958-1964), in Imperial and Wauneta (1964-1979), as well as in Ashland and Greenwood (1979-1986).

Father Rydz retired from active ministry in 1986 and resided at Marianna near Cedar Bluffs. He generously helped various parishes during his retirement and often celebrated Mass for the Sisters and students at Villa Marie School. In 2007, he moved to Bonacum House where he entered eternal life on March 24, 2008, Easter Monday, a week after having celebrated his sixtieth jubilee of ordination at the Chrism Mass. The Most Rev. Fabian Bruskewitz celebrated the funeral Mass at Saint Wenceslaus Church, Wahoo, on March 29. Monsignor Thorburn, homilist at the funeral, recalled, “those who knew Father Rydz were amazed at the inexhaustible interests he had, none of which were held apart from the love of God. Indeed, they were his interests only because they revealed the beauty, goodness, and love that our Lord has for us.” Father Rydz was buried in Saint Francis Cemetery, Wahoo.
March 24, 1949   Rev. Norbert Lukes, O.S.B.

Father Norbert was sent to the Diocese of Lincoln in response to Bishop Kucera’s request for a priest who knew the Czech language and who understood the traditions and customs of the Czechs. He was appointed pastor of Deweese on August 10, 1931.

Under the direction of Father Norbert, a parish hall was built in Deweese with the materials salvaged from the abandoned Catholic church building in Fairfield. Father Norbert stayed until 1932, when Father Ignatius Skopal who had served previously in Deweese returned for one year. Subsequently, the Benedictines resumed charge of the parish for six more years.

Father Norbert continued his dedicated service to the Church in Illinois and Oklahoma until God called him from his earthly apostolate on March 24, 1949, at Saint Procopius Abbey, Lisle, Illinois.

*******************************************************************************
Robert Wuest was born January 31, 1913, in Cincinnati, Ohio. He entered the novitiate of the Society of the Precious Blood and made profession of religious vows December 8, 1932. He was ordained April 21, 1940 at Saint Charles Seminary, Carthagena, Ohio, by Bishop George J. Rehring.

On January 8, 1949, Father Wuest was sent to Saint Mary Parish, Nebraska City as an assistant pastor. He was transferred to Saint Henry’s Church, Saint Henry, Ohio, September 12, 1951.

After serving in Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan, Father Wuest was again sent to the Diocese of Lincoln. On August 8, 1974, he was appointed pastor of Saint Benedict Church, Nebraska City. His pastorate continued until April, 1978.

In December, 1980, Father Wuest suffered a stroke and was compelled to retire from the active ministry. He went to Saint Charles Seminary in Carthagena, Ohio. Father Wuest was residing there when God called his faithful servant from a life of faith to one of Eternal Light, March 26, 1988.

"May all your people who have gone before us in faith share his victory and enjoy the vision of your glory forever." Opening Prayer of the Liturgy for November 2.
Melvin Lawrence Rempe was born in Lawrence, NE on May 10, 1939. He began his studies for the priesthood at Saint Thomas Seminary, Denver, Colorado. On May 29, 1965, he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop James V. Casey at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln.


In 2009, Father Rempe was appointed parochial vicar at St. Joseph Parish in York until his retirement in 2014.

A rosary was held for Father Rempe on April 10, 2018 in Superior, NE. The funeral Mass was at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ in Lincoln on April 11, 2018, with his nephew, Rev. James Golka, preaching the homily. Burial was at St. Stephen Cemetery in Lawrence, Ne.
John Hynes was born on August 8, 1913 in Lowell, Massachusetts. He studied at Canisius College, Buffalo, New York; Oblate House of Philosophy, Newburgh, New York; and Oblate Scholasticate, Catholic University, Washington, D.C. He was ordained as an Oblate Father on June 7, 1938 at Immaculate Conception Shrine in Washington, D.C. by Bishop John M. McNamara.

On January 18, 1948, Father Hynes was sent to Saint Patrick in McCook as pastor of the parish and director of the Oblate community. During his administration the property at the corner of F and East Fourth Streets was purchased in 1950, as a site for the new church. The campaign for funds was inaugurated at a reunion and dance in the city auditorium on October 12, 1950. Father Hynes acquired additional property for the parish on September 1, 1952.

Father Hynes conducted the ground-breaking ceremonies for the new church on August 12, 1952. He did not have the satisfaction of completing the project since he was chosen to serve as Provincial Bursar for the Oblates. Father Hynes left McCook on February 15, 1953.

After serving the Church as a priest of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate for 35 years, God terminated the temporal apostolate of Father Hynes on March 28, 1973, in Tewksbury, Massachusetts.
Patrick O'Kane was born on August 3, 1882 in County Derry, Ireland. He was ordained on June 21, 1908 in Maynooth by Archbishop William J. Walsh of Dublin. Father O'Kane came to the United States in 1912 and worked in Louisville, Kentucky for some years before applying for admission to the Diocese of Lincoln.

Father O'Kane came to Lincoln in 1929 and was sent to Bloomington by Bishop Francis J. Beckman. In 1932, he was transferred to Arapahoe with the mission at Oxford.

In September of 1933, Father O'Kane was incardinated in the Diocese of Lincoln. On December 13, 1936, he was appointed pastor of Davey and Greenwood, where he served until he was named to the pastorate of Denton and Cheney.

After an illness of several months, Father O'Kane died at Saint Elizabeth Hospital on March 31, 1941.

Following the funeral Mass on April 3, Bishop Kucera made a strong appeal for parents to foster vocations to the priesthood. The Bishop called attention to the fact that only a small percentage of the priests of the diocese at that time were natives of the State of Nebraska. Without help from other dioceses in this country and in Europe, it would have been possible to supply priests for only a few parishes in the diocese.