

Assistant Pastor Named At Catholic Church Here

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Rev. Leo E. Lavoie, who is writing a book about the first Catholic bishop of Texas, has been appointed assistant pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church by Most Reverend John L. Morkovsky, bishop of the Diocese of Amarillo.

Rev. Lavoie replaces **Rev. Claude Barton**, who will leave Odessa Monday to become pastor of St. John's Catholic Church at Hermleigh, Tex.

Rev. Lavoie will celebrate his first Sunday Mass in Odessa at 8:30 a.m. today.

A native of Nashua, N. H., **Rev.** Lavoie has been a priest for the past 27 years and celebrated his Silver Anniversary on Jan. 28, 1959.

Rev. Lavoie attended grade school in Nashua, N. H., later went to Assumption Prep School and Assumption college in Worcester, Mass.

He attended the Seminary of Philosophy in Montreal, Canada, from 1926 to 1928 and St. Bonaventure Seminary, Alleghany, N. Y., in 1929. He was given a bachelor of arts degree and a master of arts degree from St. Bonaventure University.

Rev. Lavoie was ordained by Bishop J. B. Peterson in St. Joseph's Cathedral, Manchester, N. H., on Jan. 28, 1933. He remained in New Hampshire until 1953 when he came to Texas.

He was first assigned as chaplain for the Franciscan Sisters and

at the same time started working on his book at the request of Bishop L. J. FitzSimon.

Rev. Lavoie said he has seven chapters written on a book about the life of Jean Marie Odin who formed the first Catholic diocese in Texas in 1847 at Galveston. **Rev.** Odin later became the Bishop of New Orleans.

Rev. Lavoie remained in Amarillo until Jan. 16, 1957, when he was appointed pastor of St. Anne's Church in Canyon. He moved to Odessa from Canyon.

He was the fifth child in a family of six. His family still lives in Nashua, N. H. He is 53 years old.

Rev. Barton, who is a Monk of St. Benedict, has been assistant pastor of St. Mary's for the past 14 months. The native of St. Louis, Mo., attended St. Louis University and was ordained on May 26, 1938, at the Abbey of the Immaculate Conception, Conception, Mo.

For 14 years he was a missionary in several mid-western states working with Indians. Most of his time was spent in South Dakota where he worked with the Sioux Indians and third generation descendants of Sitting Bull.

Before being assigned to Odessa, **Rev. Barton** was a professor at the Abbey of the Immaculate Conception. While in Odessa he was also active in convert work.

He will take over his new duties as pastor of St. John's in Hermleigh Tuesday.