

Parsons Sun October 7, 1994

William A. Wheeler

JOPLIN — The Rev. William A. Wheeler, 83, of Joplin, died at his home early Monday morning, Oct. 3, 1994.

He was born Dec. 17, 1910, in Bray, Wicklow County, Ireland, to William and Kate (Doran) Wheeler. He attended school in Bray, later attending Mount Melleray, Tipperary County, and Saint John Lateran University in Rome, Italy, where he was ordained as a Catholic priest Dec. 19, 1936. He then served in the Galway Diocese, Scotland.

He entered the British Army in 1940 and served as a chaplain in World War II in the European Theater, taking part in the battle of Dunkirk in France. Following his discharge he went to Canada.

In 1955, he came to the United States to serve the Wichita Diocese at All Saints Catholic Church in Wichita.

In 1956 he served St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Parsons. Later that year he served as chaplain for St. Joseph's Orphanage at El Dorado. In 1958 he served the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church at Burns. In 1960 he served as chaplain for the St. Elizabeth Hospital and Kansas State Reformatory at Hutchinson.

In 1963, the Rev. Wheeler served St. Michael's Catholic Church in Girard. In 1967 he served Holy Cross Catholic Church in Hutchinson. In 1973 he served St. Patrick Catholic

Church at Harper. In 1977 he served the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church at Danville. He retired June 27, 1985, and moved to Joplin.

The Rev. Wheeler was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Luke and Tom; and one sister, May.

Rosary service will be at 3 p.m. Sunday at Holy Name Catholic Church, Coffeyville.

Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Monday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Danville, with Bishop Eugene Gerber and priests of the Wichita Diocese officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery at Danville.

Ford-Wulf-Bruns Edgewood Chapel is in charge of arrangements. Friends may call at the funeral home Sunday from noon to 9 p.m. The casket will be closed.