

October 1, 1970

Archbishop Edward J. Hunkeler



Archbishop Hunkeler was born Jan. 1, 1894, in Medicine Lodge. He was baptized by Father B. Martin, who served Medicine Lodge as a station from his pastorate at St. Rose of Lima, Danville.

The Hunkeler family moved to Dayton, Ohio, in 1896. The future prelate was ordained to the priesthood June 14, 1919, by Bishop James Hartley of Columbus.

Father Hunkeler was elevated to the rank of domestic prelate and given the title of monsignor by Pope Pius XI in 1937. He was appointed vicar general of the Omaha diocese in 1944 and named bishop of Grand Island in 1945.

Bishop Hunkeler served the Diocese of Grand Island until he was transferred to the Diocese of Kansas City in Kansas, March 28, 1951. He was elevated to the archepiscopacy on Aug. 9, 1952, when the state of Kansas was established as a new ecclesiastical province.

Archbishop Hunkeler was among those bishops who attended Bishop Franz's consecration in Peoria, Ill., and his installation in Dodge City. He installed Bishop Forst as the second bishop of Dodge City, April 5, 1960.

Archbishop Hunkeler retired Sept. 10, 1969. He died Oct. 1, 1970, from injuries he sustained in an automobile accident in Crookston, Minn. Archbishop Ignatius Strecker celebrated the funeral Mass in St. Peter's Cathedral in Kansas City, Kans. Burial was in Mount Calvary Cemetery in Kansas City, Kans.

Other religious vocations in the family include a sister, Sister Marie Philomena, who entered the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namar, and two nephews, Fathers Otto Buehler and Edward Hunkeler (Diocese of Omaha).