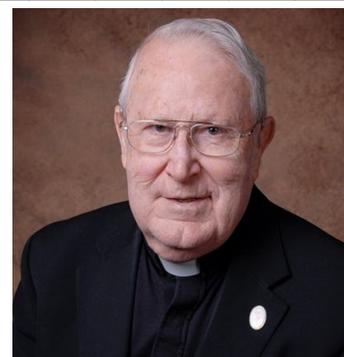


**Father Carl Dekat**  
**1928-2020**



Father Carl Dekat was ordained February 28, 1953, retired July 14, 2006, and passed away on June 14, 2020, at the age of 92.

Father Carl served as pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Topeka from 1985-1990, and St. Joseph Church, Topeka, from 1998-2006.

*The following excerpts are from:*

*"Spires for All Time, The Art and History of St. Joseph German Catholic Church"*  
by Mary Christine Adams and Teresa Ann Thomas

Father promoted Catholic education by providing ample catechetical classes. During his time at St. Joseph, we had the highest number of adult baptisms per year of any of the nine Catholic churches in Topeka.

Father Dekat had humble beginnings in northeastern Kansas. He determined he wanted to be a priest when he visited an uncle, Father E. I. Dekat, who was a priest at Blessed Sacrament in Kansas City. When he returned home, young Carl thought, "I'm going to be a priest."

Spiritually, Father Dekat cultivated a personal love and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. He visited practically every Marian shrine in the world, saying, "It's so spiritually rewarding to go on a pilgrimage. Some of the highlights of my priesthood have been celebrating the Mass at the altar at Knock, Ireland, the main altar at the shrine of the Holy Infant Jesus of Prague, and the Czestochowa in Poland." His most treasured collection is one of statues and images of Mary.

Father's hobby was woodworking. "I used my Christmas money to buy a table saw at my first parish, and I've done woodworking ever since," he remarked. "I've always been very happy as a priest, and I've never had any desire to leave. I really think the priesthood is the most satisfying life anyone could ever have." His advice to a recently ordained priest was, "Pray, pray, and pray some more, and have a good hobby like woodworking." People ask me what I make. I tell them that I make sawdust. I've made a lot of that in my days."

In valuing human life, Father Dekat was a champion, especially for the innocent victims of abortion. It is for these unborn children that Father Dekat worked tirelessly by marching at abortion clinics and rallies with Rosary in hand, offering up prayers to God.

"I just thank God for all the blessings and graces the priesthood has brought into my life. For a young priest just entering the priesthood, I would say that we do have sorrows and difficulties and hardships, but the blessings far outweigh the hardships."

"My dear people." Father Carl started every homily with those words.  
(A favorite memory of Teresa Thomas.)

***You are a Priest Forever, Father Carl. Well done, good and faithful servant!***

[CampanellaFuneral.com/obituary81](http://CampanellaFuneral.com/obituary81)

Father Carl's Mass of Christian Burial was recorded and available on [SacredHeartStJosephCatholic.org](http://SacredHeartStJosephCatholic.org).