

Former Goodland priest dies, asks for prayers

Monsignor Armand F. Girard, pastor of Goodland's Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church from 1985-1995, died Wednesday, Jan. 5, 2005, at the St. Joseph Village in Manhattan. He was 83.

Short and enthusiastic, a twinkle in his blue eyes, Father Girard led the church here for more than a decade leading up to his retirement.

Before the new year, he sent out a letter to family members, friends and former parishioners saying he was ready to meet with his Savior.

"I'm writing this letter in three phases: in thanksgiving to Almighty God for all of his blessings, to my vocation to the priesthood and to his calling me to serve his people in the likeness of His Son," he wrote.

"I want to thank all of you for the

way God has brought you into my life to grow in love and in His service. It has been one of my greatest blessings. I hope you will continue to pray for me, and I will continue to pray for you now and when in heaven.

"The doctors have informed me I have idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and that it is terminal. They are the best around and are doing all they can for me.

"I'm not praying for more life here on this earth, but for eternal life with my Lord and Savior."

Father Girard was born on April 26, 1921, in Aurora, Kan., one of eight children of Leon and Blanche (Desilet) Girard.

His studies for the priesthood took him to St. Benedict's College in Atchison, the St. Louis Preparatory Seminary and Kenrick Seminary, also in St. Louis. He was or-

dained June 10, 1945, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Salina.

Immediately after ordination, he was sent to the Catholic University of America, Washington, where in two years he obtained a licentiate in canon law.

For a time during World War II, he contemplated leaving the seminary to join his friends in the war effort. His spiritual director advised him, "you're not going to win the war; they will always need priests to replace the chaplains who are in the service now, and if they want you, they will call you," and so he stayed.

His first assignment was at Sacred Heart Cathedral in 1947. Four years later, he was pro-chancellor of the diocese and held that position until 1954, when he was assigned pastor of Saints Peter and Paul parish in Clay Center. In 1959, he was named as the first pastor of St. Mary Queen of the Universe in Salina.

It was at this time that he was appointed vicar general of the diocese, a position he held from 1959-1983 under Bishops F.W. Freking, C.J. Vogel and Daniel Kucera.

Father Girard visited Rome and attended some sessions of the historic Second Vatican Council. On Sept. 21, 1967, he was installed as first pastor of the newly established Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Hays.

He was assigned to St. Francis of Assisi in Norton on June 18, 1975. A lasting tribute to his ministry in the Norton community is the existence of several college scholarships for young people of the parish. While there, he helped found the Valley Hope substance abuse program.

Father Girard's next assignment was in Goodland in 1985. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and Ministerial Alliance.

On July 1, 1995, Father Girard

announced his retirement, as he was approaching his 50 years as a priest of the Salina Diocese. He celebrated his Golden Jubilee on June 10 of that year with a Mass in the Goodland church, and on the following Sunday with another Mass at St. Peter Church in Aurora, near Concordia, his home parish.

Following his retirement, he went to live at St. Isidore's Catholic Student Center adjacent to Kansas State University in Manhattan. For the past eight years, he has been a contract priest for Fort Riley.

Survivors include a sister, Dorothy Blackwell of Aurora. Cynthia Haynes, vice-president of Nor-West Newspapers, is a niece.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, Alpha and Alphonse Girard; another brother, Jean Paul Girard; and three sisters, Aurelia and Madeline Girard, who died in infancy, and Marie Letourneau.

A vigil was held Sunday, Jan. 9,

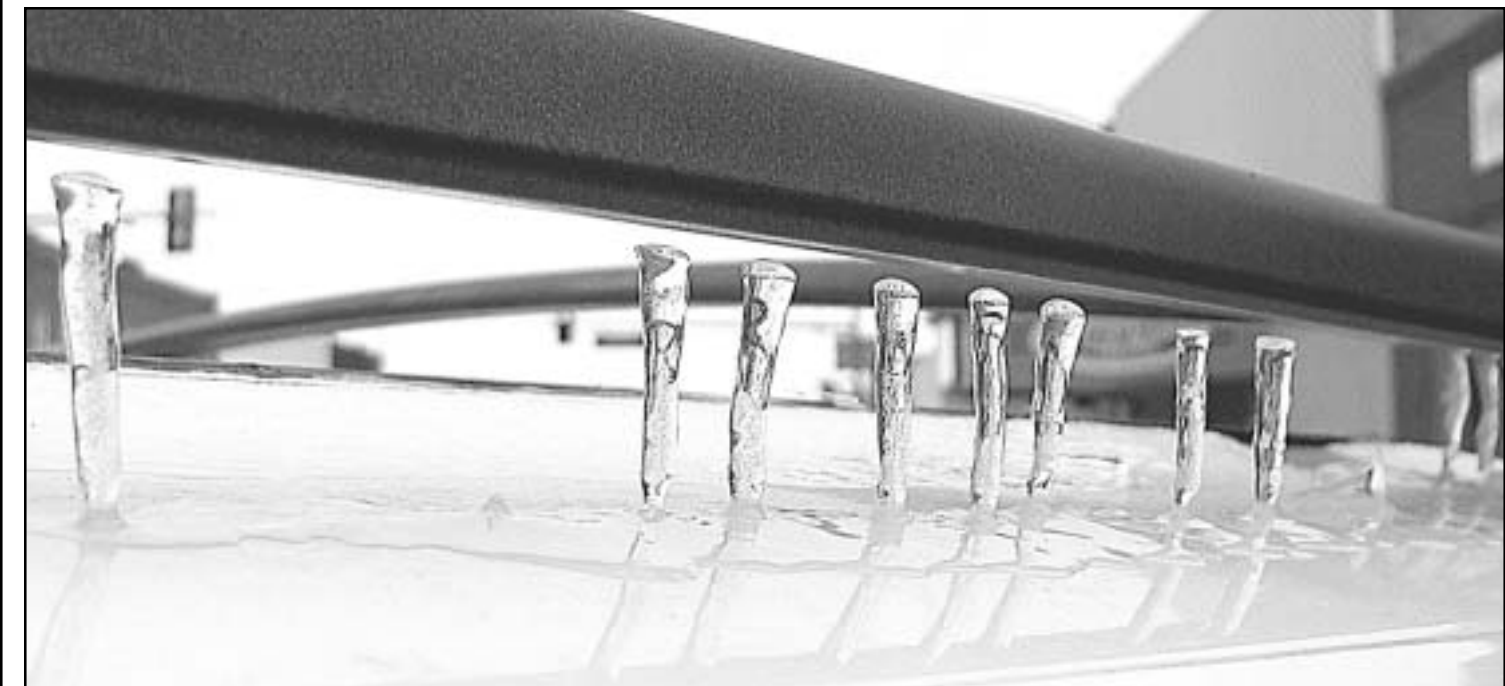
2005, at the St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Manhattan, with the Rosary and Honor Guard by the Knights of Columbus.

Mass of Christian Burial was said Monday, Jan. 10, 2005, at the St. Mary Queen of the Universe in Salina with the Most Rev. Paul S. Coakley, Bishop of Salina, as celebrant and Bishop Emeritus George K. Fitzsimons and brother priests as concelebrants. Burial followed in the Mount Calvary Cemetery in Salina.

On-line condolences may be left for the family at <http://www.ymfuneralhome.com>.

Memorial contributions may be made to your own church, to Valley Hope or to a religious institution of your choice in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kan. 66502, or the Ryan Mortuary, 137 N. Eighth Street, Salina, Kan. 67401-2686.

Major meltdown blows through town



The icy cold of last week left many shivering, but when the sun came out Wednesday afternoon, the warming melted a series of icicles away from the luggage rack on top of a car parked on

Main, leaving the icicles standing on their own like a series of tiny tornadoes.

Photo by Evan Barnum / The Goodland Star-News

Big thinking behind launch of new image

The state's Brand Image Task Force unveiled a new Kansas image campaign Friday at a press conference in Topeka, playing to the state's wide open spaces.

Using the tagline, "KANSAS. As big as you think," the campaign includes television, radio, and print ads featuring two American icons, Kansans Dwight D. Eisenhower and Amelia Earhart. These ads were revealed Friday and aired statewide beginning Sunday.

State officials say their research showed Kansas didn't have so much a bad image, as no image in faraway places.

"What is the first thing that comes to mind when someone says Kansas?" a Department of Commerce official asks. "The answer may vary from 'flat' to 'tornadoes' to 'Dorothy and Toto.' In most cases, however, that question has been answered with a blank stare.

"A lot of people just don't think about Kansas."

The campaign, developed by the Commerce Department with the help of a citizen group, centers around a "positioning statement":



"In Kansas, our wide open spaces allow people to dream and make big things happen."

That is used in the ads, which show how the open vistas of Kansas provide the room and the inspiration for great thinking and monumental action.

Callahan Creek, a Lawrence advertising agency, is handling the campaign. Department of Commerce officials say they have received \$700,000 to spend on the campaign. So far the effort has cost a total of \$1.7 million, with money coming from lottery sales revenue. Officials said they will ask for an additional \$1.7 million to spend over the next year.

"The position reflects the reality of Kansas," said Howard Fricke, secretary of commerce. "Our wide

open spaces do create big thinking. Eisenhower, Amelia Earhart and many other determined and innovative Kansans reflect how being a Kansan helped shape their spirit to do the most amazing things.

"This rugged, free-thinking attitude is true today. It's in our nature. People are more free to think and create here than they are in other places."

The new state image was developed from recommendations made at Prosperity Summits in 2003, when community leaders from across the state met to identify opportunities for and barriers to economic growth.

Priorities for growth were identified at the summits, and the most consistent was the need for a strong state image. From that group, the image task force was developed.

The task force includes community, business development and tourism leaders representing each of the summit regions. Fred Jones of Logan County Economic Development in Oakley was the representative from northwest Kansas.

Researchers surveyed state residents, select Kansas legislators, business location consultants, travel writers, and out-of-state travelers, and tried to identify core values, attitudes and perceptions about the state.

The campaign makes Kansas one of a few states to develop a statewide campaign that will use one consistent message for tourism, economic development and other state organizations.

"Our goal is to build a long-term brand image that the whole state will embrace," Fricke said. "With limited marketing dollars, statewide consistency provides greater effectiveness in telling the Kansas story.

"The new state image provides a meaningful promise to people who live here, and to people who are considering doing business in the state, traveling to the state, or moving to the state."

Kanorado council, city and school seats up for grabs in April

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Three seats on the Goodland School Board, three on the Goodland City Commission, and three on the Kanorado City Council, plus the job of mayor Kanorado, will be up for election on Tuesday, April 5.

Filing deadline is noon on Tuesday, Jan. 25. There is a \$5 filing fee for each candidate.

Sherman County Clerk Janet Rumpel, who serves as the county election officers, said the school board candidates can file at her office. Kanorado candidates can file there or at the city clerk's office in Kanorado. Goodland City Clerk Mary Volk has the filing papers for the city commission.

School board members up for reelection are Dick Short, Ron Schilling and Mike Campbell.

Schilling said Monday he is not running. "I have served two terms," he said, "and I think it is important to have new people on the board. I hope there are several people who step forward to run."

In Kanorado, City Clerk Susan Adams said Friday two applications had been taken out so far for mayor and three for council, but none has been turned in.

Adams said Mayor Robert Helderman said he might run for the council because he wants to have more of a voice. In Kanorado, there are five council members plus the mayor, who normally does not vote.

Council members up for election are Deb Fahey, Greg Pettibone and Frank Hernandez.

Rumpel said Monday her office had received two candidate filings from Kanorado. Bob Handle filed for mayor and Linda Handle for the council.

In Goodland, there will be at least

two open seats, as Commissioners Jim Mull and Dean Blume have said they do not plan to run. Commissioner John Garcia said he has not made up his mind.

Volk said Monday no candidates had filed, and no applications had been taken out.

Rumpel said she won't know if a primary election will be required until after the filing deadline. If needed, the primary would be Tuesday, March 1.

All voting in both will be done at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall in Goodland; there will be no polling place in Kanorado.

There will be a primary election only if there are more than twice as many candidates than the total number to be elected. Rumpel said in the case of the Kanorado council, the Goodland commission and the school board, a primary would be required only if there are more than six candidates for the three open seats in any one race.

Two years ago, a primary election had to be held for the school board and for Kanorado mayor. There were 10 candidates for four school board positions and three for mayor.

To be eligible to vote in April elections, voters must be registered with the county clerk by Monday, Feb. 14.

Voters may register from 8 a.m.-noon and 1-5 p.m. Monday-Friday at the courthouse, 813 Broadway, and from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday at the city clerk's office in the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th.

Voters must be U.S. citizens age 18 or over by election day. They need to register if this is their first election or if they have moved or changed their names since the last time they registered.

corrections

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our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual.

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