

## Father Theodore Knegtel

I welcome you today to learn a little more about the early pastors of St. John Parish in Little Chute.

I am Reverend Theodore Joseph Knegtel. I was born August 13, 1845 in Tilburg, Holland, a small town where two other Priests that served St Johns were born, Fr. Vanden Borne and Fr. Kools.

I spent my youth in Tilburg and later entered the seminary at Michiels Gestel, Holland for classical studies. After Graduation I entered the seminary at Haaren where I studied theology. On May 25, 1872 I was ordained a priest. That was 136 years ago.

I was a chaplain in several parishes in Holland before I applied to enter into the Green Bay Diocese and was received October 16, 1890. My first appointment was as pastor at Preble when I remained until 1890.

On January 21, 1890 I was sent to Little Chute where I stayed the rest of my life.

During my time at St John the church was decorated including installing stained glass windows and new pews. A large tower clock was installed and two bells were hung in the steeple. The sanctuary and sacristies were added to the church in 1894. The red brick rectory was built in 1904 and a substantial addition was added to the school.

I was honored and blessed to have preformed 2269 baptisms, attended 760 funerals, and 418 marriages. There were a total of 1154 confirmations all in my 25 years at St John's. The parish has grown to 1800 souls by the year of 1895.

I died June 15, 1915 while serving in Little Chute and was one of five priests buried in St John Parish Cemetery.

Little Chute Historical Society Cemetery Walk 2008