

St. Francis of Assisi



St. Francis, founder of the Capuchins and patron saint of other orders following Franciscan spirituality, taught us kinship with all God's creation. He spoke of Brother Sun and Sister Moon and even Little Sister Death. He is shown here surrounded by God's creatures with sun and moon in the background. The donkey is how he referred to his own body. The Western Meadowlarks and sunflowers connect him to his home in Kansas.

The Franciscans were the first religious order to enter this territory in the person of Father Juan De Padilla. He is depicted in a separate shrine area in the gathering space. The Order of Friars Minor, Capuchins (the Capuchins) began serving a five-county mission district from Marienthal House in 1905. An independent friary was established in Ness City in 1929. The Marienthal missions included St. Theresa (now Leoti), Scott City, Dighton and Healy. The Ness City missions included Ransom, Bazine and Nonchalanta. The parishes in Greeley, Wichita, Scott, Lane and Ness counties grew to maturity under the care of the Capuchin friars. The Capuchins continued to serve in the diocese into the 1950s.