

Alban F. Gross, 83 ✓

Aug. 30, 1914 - April 4, 1998

EARLING - Alban Frank Gross, son of Joseph and Mary (Engel) Gross, was born Aug. 30, 1914, in Earling. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, and attended St. Joseph's Catholic School and Country School.

He married Lavina Kaufman Oct. 8, 1940, in Westphalia, at the St. Boniface Catholic Church. Nine children were born to this union, Joan, Mary Ann, Kathleen, Duane, Damian, Dean, Declan, David and Jeanne. Shortly after their marriage, they began farming in Union Township on the land his father had originally owned, purchasing it in 1944. Through the years, they have worked together. They had a diversified livestock and grain farming program. For 45 years, he was a seed salesman for J. C. Robinson Seed Co. where he sold various crops. He was very active with soil conservation and completed all practices on his four hundred acres. He won the county and region Top Soil Conservation Award of 1982. He was also a drummer and a singer for the Earl Russell Orchestra for 45 years. He was a lifelong member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. He was also a member of St. Joseph's Choir and a member of the Knights of Columbus Council #1714. He died April 4, 1998, at age 83 years, seven months and five days.



In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Michael, Andrew, Leonard, Werner and Norbert; his sisters, Clara, Anna and Gertrude, and a grandson, Chad. Survivors include his wife, Lavina of Earling; his children, Joan (Bill) Erlbacher of Earling; Mary Ann (Ed) Lapke of Dunlap; Kathleen (Tom) Leuschen of Houston, TX; Duane (Liz) Gross of Omaha; Damian (Judi) Gross of Logan; Dean Gross of Cedar Rapids; Declan (Gayla) Gross of Earling; David Gross of Des Moines; Jeanne (Tom) Filbey of Omaha; 27 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren; his brothers, Emil Gross of Westphalia; Marcus Gross of Harlan; Charles Gross of Laguna Hills, CA; two foster granddaughters and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated April 7, 1998, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, with Rev. Michael Berner celebrant and Rev. Ken Gross, Rev. Paul Bianchi, Rev. Joseph L. Brown, Rev. Paul Zaccone, Rev. Howard Fitzgerald, Rev. Cornelius Gaul, Rev. Jim Wilwerding and Rev. Eugene Klein concelebrating. Burial was in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Earling, with Joseph Gross, John Lapke, Tom Leuschen, Carl Leuschen, Charles Lapke, Timothy Lapke, Billy Erlbacher, Chris Leuschen, Calvin Leuschen, Shawn Erlbacher, Michael Erlbacher and David Erlbacher casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.