

## Alfons H. Gross, 76 ✓

*April 7, 1925 - Aug. 1, 2001*

**EARLING** – Alfons Henry Gross, son of Joseph and Josephine (Blum) Gross, was born April 7, 1925, in Earling. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Joseph's Catholic Church and attended St. Joseph's Catholic School in Earling.

He married Maxine Frances Mahlberg April 15, 1959, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. Two children were born to this union, Peter and Susan. After their marriage, he continued to farm the family farm northwest of Earling. In 1974, he began to work for the Shelby County Conservation Board and was the carekeeper for Manteno County Park until May of 1990, when he retired. Maxine died April 12, 1977. Alfons became a resident of the Lincoln Ambassador Care Facility in Lincoln, NE, in October of 1992. While there he was a member of the Resident Council and was elected to be its leader several times. Two of his accomplishments as a council member were to install clocks in each resident's room and to have a cement sidewalk placed to the flagpole at the front of the home. He was also actively involved in raising money for the Resident Council by selling doughnuts every Thursday morning and raffle tickets whenever needed. Alfons was a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, and a member of the Knights of Columbus Council No. 1741 also of Earling. He died Aug. 1, 2001, at the Ambassador Lincoln Care Facility in Lincoln, NE, at age 76 years, three months and 25 days.

In addition to his parents and his wife, Maxine, Alfons was preceded in death by a brother, Robert. Survivors include his children, Peter Gross of Earling; Susie (Bill) Russell of Denison; three granddaughters, Megan, Katie and Sarah Russell of Denison; three step grandchildren, Daniel Russell and Kama Russell, both of Oklahoma and Joe Russell (Amy) of Kirkman; one step great grandson, Preston Russell of Kirkman; his brothers and sisters, Leo Gross (Ruth) of Earling; Leona (Elmer) Babel of Columbus, NE; Helen (Marvin) Bissen of Harlan; Dorothy (Henry) Coenen of Woodbine; Gene Gross (Sharon) of Battle Creek; Marie (Charlie) Klein of Earling; Jerry Gross (Sharon) of Earling; Vern Gross (Cathy) of Palmdale, CA; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 3, 2001, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, with Rev. Michael Berner celebrant. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Panama, with Steve Klein, Darrell Mahlberg, Craig Gross, Terry Gross, Dave Mahlberg and Deny Bissen casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.