

Rev. Richard Gubbels, 67 ✓

Aug. 18, 1937 - July 13, 2005

WEST DES MOINES — Richard Edward Gubbels was born Aug. 18, 1937, to Peter and Clara (Bock) Gubbels on a farm near Westphalia. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. He attended school at St. Boniface in Westphalia and was a member of the St. Boniface Catholic High School graduating class of 1955. After his high school graduation, Richard attended Conception Seminary in Conception, MO from 1957-1961. Then from 1961-1965 he attended Mount Saint Bernard Seminary in Dubuque. He was ordained to the priesthood June 6, 1965 and celebrated his first Mass June 7, 1965.



Father Gubbels' first assignment was an assistant pastor at St. Anthony's in Des Moines in 1965. In 1969, he directed the Hospital Chaplaincy Program and was chaplain of the Catholic Council for Social Concern. From 1972-1978 he was assigned pastor of Queen of Apostle's Parish in Council Bluffs. From 1978-1986 he was pastor at Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines. From 1986-1994 Father Gubbels was assigned pastor of Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny. It was in Ankeny that he built a new church. From 1994-1996 he was Pastor of St. Ambrose Cathedral Parish in Des Moines, resigning in 1996 due to health reasons. He was appointed canonical administrator of St. Peter and Paul's Parish in Atlantic from Sept. 1996-1997 and from Sept. 1997-1998 he was canonical administrator of St. Michael's Parish in Harlan. From July 1998-2001 he was pastor at St. John's Parish in Adel. From January 2002-May 2002 he attended a Sabbatical in Menlo Park, CA. From July 2002-2003 he was pastor at St. Patrick's Parish in Neola and St. Columbanus Parish in Weston. He was appointed Pastor of St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Carlisle, from July 2003 until his retirement in February 2005. Father Gubbels was a 3rd Degree Knights of Columbus, No. 1741 of Earling. He died July 13, 2005 at Bishop Drumm Home in Johnston, at age 67 years, 11 months and 18 days.

Father Gubbels was preceded in death by his parents, Peter and Clara Gubbels; two brothers, Pete and Alvin Gubbels; and sister-in-law, Mabel Gubbels. He is survived by five sisters, Sabinia Conrad (Elred) of Harlan, Sylvia Goeser (Edmund) of Westphalia, Virginia Lickteig (Cletus) of Denison, Helen Wubbenhorst (Dwight) of Herman, NE, Mary Ann Koesters (Francis) of Earling; two brothers, Ambrose Gubbels (Rita) of Harlan and Cyril Gubbels (Theresa) of Council Bluffs; two sisters-in-law, Minerva Gubbels of Avoca and Catherine Gubbels of Harlan; several nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass was held July 19, 2005, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. Burial was in St. Boniface Cemetery. Westover Funeral Home in Des Moines in charge of arrangements.