

Rev. Alphonse J. Elsbernd, SVD  
Ordained - May 9, 1929

60th Anniversary Celebration  
Divine Word College  
Epworth, Iowa  
April 23, 1989



REV. ALPHONSE ELSBERND, S.V.D.  
born 1899  
ordained 1929, missioned 1938

### Rev. Alphonse Elsbernd Honored April 23

The Rev. Alphonse Elsbernd, SVD, celebrated his 60th year in priesthood at the Divine Word College, Epworth, Sunday, April 23, with a 10 a.m. Mass of Thanksgiving.

Sister Mary Elsbernd was lector and Andrew, Alice and Mike Elsbernd presented the offertory gifts. Following the Mass, a reception for 200 relatives and friends was held at the college.

Father Bergin, Dean of the Divine Word College thanked Father Elsbernd for his many years of service to the society.

Sister Mary Elsbernd, OSF, spoke in behalf of the family, of memories of Father's home visits and receptions of years past and also of the part he played in her vocation. She thanked him for all he did for the Elsbernd family.

Father Alphonse Elsbernd entered the society of the Divine Word in 1922. He professed his final vows in 1928 and was ordained to the priesthood May 9, 1929. The years between 1929-1939 found him studying or serving in various places, including Bay St. Louis, Rome, Techney and England from 1938 to 1970, he ministered in Ghana, Africa, after returning to the United States, he served as chaplain at St. Joseph hospital in New Hampton for 11 years. He has retired at Divine Word College since 1981.

Father has a nephew, Elmer Elsbernd, SVD, a priest in Papua, New Guinea, six nieces and one grand-niece in the convent.

Attending from Ossian, were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Tieskoetter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tieskoetter, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Elsbernd and Mr. and Mrs. Leon Elsbernd.

M.G.

### Rev. Alphonse Elsbernd, SVD EPWORTH — The Rev. Alphonse Elsbernd, SVD, who is retired at Divine



Word College, will celebrate 60 years as a Divine Word Missionary priest on Sunday, April 23. A Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m., followed by a dinner and reception for relatives and friends.

Fr. Elsbernd, 89, was born at Festina, one of nine children of Mary and Joseph Elsbernd. He took his first vows in the Society of the Divine Word in 1923 and was ordained a missionary priest in 1929.

Following several teaching assignments in the United States and England, Fr. Elsbernd spent 23 years working in Ghana. One of the first missionaries to be stationed in that African nation, he managed the Catholic school system there and opened a college to train teachers. He later wrote a book about the Catholic Church there. After returning to the U.S. in 1970, he was chaplain at St. Joseph Hospital, New Hampton, until he retired in 1981.

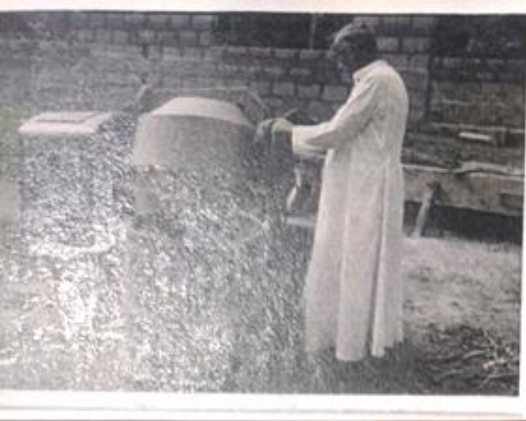
Fr. Elsbernd has a number of nieces in religious life and his nephew, the Rev. Elmer Elsbernd, is a Divine Word priest who works in New Guinea. The Elsbernd Travel Grant, awarded annually to enable a missionary from Divine Word College to visit foreign missions, is named in Fr. Alphonse's honor.



### IN LOVING MEMORY

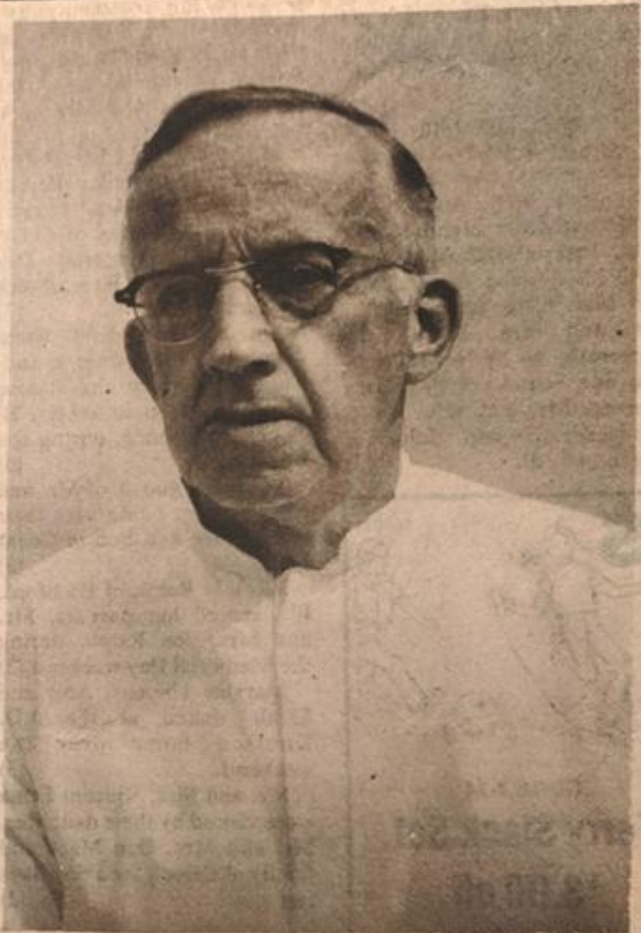
Rev. Alphonse J. Elsbernd, S.V.D.

Called to Life December 13, 1899  
Ordained Priest May 9, 1929  
Called to Heaven May 31, 1997



## Golden year in Priesthood

Father  
Alphonse  
Elsbernd



Fredericksburg: Father Elsbernd of the St. Frederick's Catholic Church was honored Sunday for his 50 years of service in the priesthood.

Following mass, a dinner was held at the Municipal Hall in his honor with approximately 200 people in attendance.

Open House was held in the church basement from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. with cake, ice cream, punch, coffee and mints and nuts served to all visitors.

The members of St. Frederick's Church dedicated the newly purchased Rodgers organ to Father Elsbernd, the first parish priest for their congregation. They also presented Father with a new black suit, which he wore during the festivities held in his honor.

Father Elsbernd also serves as Chaplain at Saint Joseph Community Hospital, New Hampton.

Father Elsbernd, a native of Festina, served as missionary in Ghana, Africa, from 1938 until his retirement and coming to this area.

Father Elsbernd was born near Festina, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Elsbernd, and was ordained to the priesthood in 1929. Following his ordination, he taught three years in Bay St. Louis, Miss., and then took two years of study in graduate philosophy in Rome before returning to the seminary at Techny, Ill., where he taught for two more years. In 1936, he was sent to England where he taught another two years before his assignment to Ghana.

May 1979