

## **Father Elmer Elsbernd**

Divine Word Missionary Father Elmer Elsbernd, age 65 of Techny, Illinois, formerly of Calmar, Iowa died on Saturday, December 8, 2001 at the Evanston Hospital, Evanston, Illinois.

Father Elmer Elsbernd was born on May 4, 1936 the sixth of twelve children born to Alois and Loretta (Kuennen) Elsbernd. He attended Our Lady of Seven Dolors grade school in Festina, Iowa. In 1950 he entered the Society of the Divine Word Seminary High School in East Troy, Wisconsin. He was ordained in 1965. In the years following his ordination, Father Elsbernd earned a Master of Science Degree in the teaching of Physics at DePaul University. He served as Vocation Director and teacher of mathematics at the Divine Word College at Epworth, Iowa from 1965-1972. He was transferred to Divine Word High School Seminary in Perrysburg, Ohio in 1972, to teach mathematics and work as Vocations Director, Director of Admissions and eventually Dean of Students. After 14 years at Perrysburg, Fr. Elsbernd volunteered to go to the Divine Word Mission in Papua, New Guinea to do pastoral work. He served as pastor in the Diocese of Mt. Hagen from 1986-1996. He was elected to Provincial Superior in 1996 and served in that position until his return to the States for medical care in January 2001. Father was a member of the Society of the Divine Word, an international Catholic missionary society serving the poor in more than 60 countries.

Father Elsbernd survivors include his six sisters: Anna Mae Kuhn, Calmar, Iowa; Sister Helen Elsbernd, FSPA, LaCrosse, WI; Sister Rose Elsbernd, FSPA, Frontenac, MN; Kathleen Schissel & husband Larry, Olathe, KS and Clare Faas & husband Richard, West Salem, WI. Four brothers: Ray Elsbernd & wife Donna, Larwence Elsbernd & wife Evelyn, both of Calmar, IA; Gerald Elsbernd, Quincy, IL and Denis Elsbernd & wife Jackie, Olathe, KS. Sister-in-law: Darlene Elsbernd of Calmar, IA. Fifty-four nieces and nephews. Two aunts: Agnes Hageman of Calmar, IA and Arleen Kuennen of Northwood, IA, and numerous cousins.

Father Elsbernd is preceded in death by his parents: Alois & Loretta Elsbernd; brother Paul Elsbernd; sister-in-law Joanne Elsbernd; brother-in-law Ray Kuhn and niece: Diane Kuhn Miller.

Father Elmer is buried at St. Aloysius Catholic Cemetery in Calmar, Iowa.

