

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE OF SUPERIOR

May 15, 2016

Dear Fathers, Deacons, Parish Directors, Sisters, Administrators and Staff,

REV. GABRIEL C. ZEPczyk, 80 years of age, passed away less than a week following his move to his new residence at the Benedictine Health Center, Duluth. Prior to this move, FATHER GABE had been in residence at SS. Peter and Paul rectory in Moquah.

Visitation will be held from 11:00 a.m. until the Mass of Christian Burial at 12 p.m. on Thursday, May 19, 2016, at Our Lady of the Lake Church, Ashland, WI, with Bishop James Powers officiating and priests of the Diocese of Superior concelebrating. Interment will take place on Friday, May 20, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in Saint Patrick's Cemetery in Phillips, WI. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the Mountain Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Ashland and Mellen, WI. Online condolences for family may be left at www.MountainFuneralHomes.com.

FR. GABE was born the sixth of eight children to Joseph F. and Cordelia E. (Sheff) Zepczyk on March 26, 1936 in Phillips, WI. He attended Phillips Public School, Sacred Heart Mission Seminary, Geneva, IL; Sacred Heart Novitiate, Youngston, OH; and Sacred Heart Seminary Shelby, OH. HE is survived by his siblings: Rose (Clifford) Babler, Anthony (Lorraine) Zepczyk, Raphael (Darlene) Zepczyk and Mary Zepczyk. FR. GABE was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, John and Joseph as well as one sister, Jeanie (Sister Mary Rose).

FR. GABE pronounced vows for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart religious order (MSC Missionaries) in Toledo, OH, (where the orders' major seminary was located) on May 26, 1962, by the Most Rev. George Rehring, Bishop of Toledo, OH.

From 1964-1968, FR. GABE was a missionary and a parish priest in South Seas Papua New Guinea. For the next year, he served as a resident co-chaplain at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Youngstown, OH, which was followed by missionary work in Columbia, South America for three years. In 1973, he was doing mission Co-op working and preaching with Spanish speaking in the Diocese of Rockford before returning to Colombia for another three years. In 1976, Father returned to the States and was the communications director for the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart in Aurora, IL, and during the summer months traveled in the Midwest making Mission Co-op appeals. He was an amateur radio operator (Ham) since the early 1950's, a hobby he enjoyed all his life both here in this country and abroad.

In September 1978, FR. GABE contacted the Diocese of Superior because he was discerning a call to move to the diocesan priesthood. His provincial superior and the bishop of the diocese started communicating, beginning the process of incardination. Because of the death of a diocesan priest, FR. GABE was asked in October 1978 to assist the parish in Barron and the mission in Cameron.

Below is a summary of FR. GABE'S parochial and diocesan appointments:

- October 1978: Pastoral coverage in Barron and Cameron
- January 10, 1979: Associate Pastor, St. Joseph Parish, Rhinelander
- *June 1979:* *Appointed Chaplain for the Knights of Columbus #2032*
- *June 1980:* *Re-appointed Chaplain for the Knights of Columbus #2032*
- October 1, 1980: Administrator of SS Peter & Paul Parish, Moquah, and the missions of St. Peter, Dauby and St. Florian, Ino
- November 9, 1981: Incardinated into the Diocese of Superior by Bishop George Hammes
- July 10, 1990: Parochial Administrator of SS. Peter and Paul, Moquah, St. Peter, Dauby, and St. Florian, Ino
- November 19, 2002: Retired from active ministry

Please keep FR. GABE ZEPczyk and his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

Eternal rest grant unto REV. GABRIEL ZEPczyk, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him, may he rest in peace. Amen

Members of the Purgatorial Society are asked to please offer the customary three Masses for the repose of the soul of REV. GABRIEL C. ZEPczyk.

Peace & blessings,



Debra J. Lieberg
Chancellor