

## Sylvia Bissen, 80

May 24, 1928 - Dec. 28, 2008

**PANAMA** — Sylvia Mary Bissen was born on May 24, 1928, to George and Mary (Seimer) Arkfeld in Panama. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama and attended both elementary and high school at St. Mary's Catholic School. After graduation, she attended St. Scholastica College in Atchinson, KS.

Sylvia was united in marriage to Gerald J. Bissen on February 16, 1949 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. Nine children were born to this union: Lora, Bette, Bob, Peg, Jim, Dale, Jerry, Chris, and Ron. She taught school for one year in Kirkman, before staying home with her children.



Sylvia was a loving and devoted mother and was involved in 4-H as a leader. She was a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Katherine, #266 of Earling, and was an Archdiocese Board Member. Her hobbies include playing cards and bingo with her friends, crocheting, quilting, baking, and gardening. She enjoyed watching her children and grandchildren at their sporting events. Sylvia died at Jennie Edmundson Memorial Hospital on Sunday, December 28, 2008, having attained the age of eighty years, seven months, and four days.

Sylvia was preceded in death by her parents and her brothers and sisters: Archbishop Leo Arkfeld, Florence Ohlinger, Sally Kohles, Vince Arkfeld, Clem Arkfeld, Lucille Arkfeld and Mary Arkfeld. She is survived by her husband of fifty-nine years, Gerald Bissen of Earling; her children: Lora and her husband Tom Heit of Evansdale, Bette and her husband Steve Sheeran of Seattle, WA, Bob Bissen and his wife Mary of Earling, Peg and her husband Mike Shappell of Loxahatchee, FL, Jim Bissen and his wife Carla of Mesa, AZ, Dale Bissen and his wife Julie of Woodbury, MN, Jerry Bissen and his wife Lynn of Harlan, Chris and her husband Dave Blum of Glenwood, and Ron Bissen and his wife Melissa of Westminster, MD; twenty-four grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sister Rita and her husband John Kelly of Woodbine; brother George Arkfeld of Oceanside, CA; sisters-in-law: Mick Arkfeld, Carm Flickinger, Sally Smith, and Kathleen Bissen; nieces and nephews; other family members and many friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Wednesday, December 31, 2008 with Rev. Tom Coenen celebrating and Rev. Vince Ohlinger

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concelebrating the 10:30 AM service at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. Casket bearers were Michael Bissen, Randy Bissen, Logan Shappell, Eric Blevins, Tommy Heit, and Robbie Bissen. Interment was held at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Earling.

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