

Karen Kenkel, 41

Sept. 10, 1964 - Oct. 13, 2005

OMAHA, NE — Karen Marie (Leuck) Kenkel was born Sept. 20, 1964, in Harlan, to Charles and Betty (Koster) Leuck. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan. She graduated from Harlan Community High School in May 1983. In high school, she was very active in 4-H and band. She then attended the University of Northern Iowa and obtained a Bachelor's degree in communication.

July 4, 1992, Karen married Bruce D. Kenkel at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, with Father Chuck Kottas performing the ceremony. They have made their home in Omaha, NE since their marriage. They were blessed with three children, Alex, Rachel and Mason, who all attend St. Wenceslaus School. After working in the communications industry for several years, Karen became a stay-at-home mom in 1997. She was very active in St. Wenceslaus Church and School as a member of the Ladies Guild, Helping Hands program, Vacation Bible School, Ministry of Mother Sharing, the Masterpiece Art program, and several additional activities at the school. She was also a member of a coffee group. She died Oct. 13, 2005, at her home with her husband, children and family with her.

Karen was preceded in death by her father, Charles W. Leuck, who died June 8, 2001. She is survived by her husband, Bruce D. Kenkel; children, Alex, Rachel and Mason Kenkel; mother, Betty L. Leuck of Harlan; sister, Phyllis (Mark) Lytle of Harlan; brother, Russell Leuck (Lisa) of Elgin; sister, Nancy (Lee) Winton of Carrollton, TX; nieces and nephews; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Denny and Marie Kenkel of Earling; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Brian and Michaela Kenkel of Elkhorn, NE; sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Sue and Ken Alexander of Omaha, NE; and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Oct. 17, 2005, at the St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Omaha, NE; with Rev. Franklin Dvorak celebrant. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery. Casket bearers were Paul Kenkel, Mike Thraen, Nick Alexander, Jake Alexander, Jarod Lytle and Steve Kanne. Heafey-Hoffmann-Dworak & Cutler Funeral Home West Center Chapel in charge of arrangements.

