

Rev. Joseph Kula, 79 ✓

July 27, 1924 - April 11, 2004

PHOENIX, AZ – Rev. Joseph Francis Kula, the son of Frank and Amelia Kozicki Kula, was born July 27, 1924, in Omaha, NE. He was baptized and confirmed in Omaha. Rev. Joseph studied for the priesthood at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, MD. He made his home in Portsmouth, with Joe and Mary Daeges during his high school years.



Rev. Joseph was ordained at St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth, by Bishop Daley of Des Moines, in 1955. He celebrated his first Solemn Mass May 20, 1955, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth. Rev. Joseph was ordained for the Birmingham, AL Diocese. He served in the capacity of pastor in a number of parishes in that area. His ministry was mostly in Alabama and Florida and he was well known for his television and radio appearances which enlightened and gave hope to many people as he spread the word of the Lord through stories, songs and humor. Rev. Joseph returned to Portsmouth to celebrate his 40th anniversary of ordination May 19, 1995. After studying at Creighton University in the field of hospital ministry, he returned to Alabama to serve in that field. He was Vicar of the Diocese of Mobile, AL, before moving to Phoenix to complete his ministry. In Phoenix he lived with his brother, John, and later moved to an Assisted Living Facility. As a resident of Bethesda Gardens in Phoenix, AZ, he celebrated Mass and gave comfort to the needy. Easter Sunday, April 11, 2004, Father Joseph Kula went home peacefully to God at the Paradise Valley Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ. He will be celebrating his 50th year anniversary as a priest next year May 19 with the angels in Heaven.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his adopted parents, Joseph and Mary Daeges. Survivors include his sister, Mary Prust of Lombard, IL; his brother, John Kula of Phoenix, AZ; and 16 nieces and nephews; and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated April 24, 2004, at St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth, with Rev. Paul Bianchi celebrant. Casket bearers were Thomas Kula, Stanley Hrupek, Vincent Hrupek, Michael Hogan, William Prust and Joseph Hrupek. Burial was in St. Mary's Cemetery. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.