

## Rev. Adam S. Reisz, 88

*Dec. 8, 1914 - Jan. 30, 2003*

**DUNLAP** – Rev. Adam Stephen Reisz was born Dec. 8, 1914, to John and Marie (Gerlach) Reisz in Elmer, MN. He was baptized at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Elmer. As a small child, he moved with his family to Iowa. He first attended Washington County School #7 in Shelby County, and then St. Mary's Grade and High School in Panama. He was a member of the St. Mary's High School graduating class of 1933. Due to the example and inspiration of Msgr. M.B. Schiltz who was, at that time, pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. Rev. Reisz knew at an early age of his desire to enter the priesthood. Following high school graduation, he attended Dowling College in Des Moines, for two years, then attended St. Louis Preparatory Seminary in St. Louis, MO, for two years. The following four years were spent studying at the Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis.

June 7, 1941, Father Reisz was ordained in St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines, by Bishop Gerald T. Bergan. He celebrated his First Mass of Thanksgiving in St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama, June 9, 1941. He was the first from Panama to be ordained into the priesthood. Father Adam's first appointment was as assistant to Rev. John Gorman in St. Mary's of the Assumption, Granger, where he served from June 1941 to March 1944. He was administrator for St. Ann's in Pisgah, and St. Bridget's in Magnolia, from March 1944 to October 1945. He served as assistant to Msgr. Nicholas Gaul in St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima in Portsmouth, from October 1945 to June 1950, and later, as assistant to Msgr. Hansen, Visitation Parish, Des Moines, from June 1950 to October 1950. Rev. Reisz's first appointment as pastor was to St. Patrick's, Lenox, and Sacred Heart, Bedford. He served these parishes from October 1950 to August 1962. From August 1962 to September 1969, he was pastor of St. Boniface in Westphalia, and from September 1969 to July 1978, at St. Patrick's in Dunlap. Rev. Reisz's final parish assignment was Sacred Heart in Woodbine, where he served from July 1978 until his retirement in July 1984.

Following retirement, he made his home in rural Dunlap. He became a resident of Little Flower Haven Nursing and Rehab Center Jan. 30, 2001. He died Jan. 30, 2003, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 88 years, one month and 23 days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, John, Joe, Frank, Carl, Leonard and Walter Reisz; and sisters, Anna Mickels, Theresa Hastert and Marie Hastert. He is survived by his sisters, Catherine Stinn of Panama and Elizabeth (Norbert) Steffen of New Hampton; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Feb. 3, 2003, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama, with Most Reverend Joseph L. Charron, C.P.P.S. Bishop Diocese of Des Moines celebrant, Rev. Howard Fitzgerald homilist and Rev. Michael G. Peters concelebrant. Burial was held in St. Mary's Cemetery in Panama, with Cecilia Wilmes, Alice Conway, Helen Bieker, Florence Ohlinger, and Ed Book the surviving members of St. Mary's graduating class of 1933 honorary casket bearers and Phil Reisz, Paul Steffen, Bob Reisz, Ed Hastert, Ron Mickels, Allan Stinn and Mick Reisz casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.