



Msgr. Michael B. Schiltz, 96

PANAMA - Michael, the son of Michael and Caroline (Schechinger) Schiltz, was born April 5, 1893 at Westphalia. After attending St. Boniface School in Westphalia, he studied at Campion High School and College at Prairie-du-Chien, WI., then at St. Louis University and Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis. He was ordained by Bishop Drumm at St. Ambrose Cathedral in Des Moines on May 14, 1921.

His first assignment was to the parishes of Lacona and Milo, Iowa. After six months, he went to Westphalia to assist Msgr. Peter Brommenschenkel. There he organized athletics, 4-H groups and nature studies. Then after three years in Des Moines, he became Director of Diocesan Charities and editor of the Catholic Rural Life magazine.

In Sept., 1926, he became pastor at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama. In 1929, he directed building of the high school and auditorium, and in 1945 the new grade

school. He also organized 4-H groups, athletic activities including baseball and boys and girls basketball. He became Rt. Rev. Monsignor on Feb. 1, 1945. Among his students who carried his message of faith to other lands was Archbishop Leo Arkfeld and Rev. Vince Ohlinger both in Papua, New Guinea; Fr. Paul Koch in Bolivia, and Sr. Joyces Blum in Ecuador. In 1966, a new rectory was built under his direction.

After 43 years as Pastor of St. Mary's in Panama, he retired on Sept. 1, 1969. On May 14, 1971 he celebrated his 50th ordination anniversary in Panama and in 1981 his 60th anniversary. He died at Myrtue Memorial Hospital in Harlan on Jan. 5, 1990, at age 96 years, 7 months and 22 days.

In addition to his parents, Monsignor was preceded in death by six brothers, Joseph, The Rev. Martin, Jacob, Tony, Vitus, and Al, and also by three sisters, Mary Schwarte, Cecelia Zimmerman and Catherine Schiltz. He is survived by nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Jan. 9, 1990 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Panama with Msgr. Michael W. Schwarte as celebrant. The communion meditation was given by Rev. LaVerne Wingert and Rev. Eugene Koch served as the homilist. Bishop Bullock's representatives was Msgr. Frank Bognanno and other concelebrants were priests of the Des Moines Diocese. Burial was in St. Mary's cemetery with Gary Leinen, David Kenkel, Dean Gubbels, Mark Wingert, Philip Wagner and Richard Schwery serving as casketbearers. Pauley Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.