

Deacon Ronald Schmitz, 55

Jan. 31, 1947 - Dec. 7, 2002

SANTEE, CA – Ronald Schmitz was born Jan. 31, 1947, in Westphalia, to Leonard and Eileen Schmitz, the first of eight children in the family. Shortly after graduating from high school at St. Peter's High School in Defiance, he joined the U.S. Navy.

He met his wife, Pam Hupp in 1968, while stationed in San Diego, CA. He and Pam were married in 1970, the same year he began a career at Pacific Bell. He was ordained as a Deacon in 1998, and has ministered at Guardian Angels Parish since that time. At Guardian Angels, Deacon Schmitz coordinated youth ministry with his wife and worked to build a new parish center and a grotto dedicated to respect for life. He died Dec. 7, 2002, after a long battle with cancer at age 55.

He was preceded in death by his father, Leonard Schmitz; his oldest daughter, Audrey Schmitz, at age 7; and a brother, Thomas in infancy. He is survived by his wife, Pam, of Santee, CA; their daughters, Angela (Richard) Buman of Council Bluffs and Anita (Brad) Jackson of Santee, CA; four grandchildren, Sebastian and Alexander Buman and Kayla and Kyle Jackson; his mother, Eileen Schmitz of Harlan; his mother-in-law, Anita Hupp of Santee, CA; his brothers and sister, Larry (Nancy) Schmitz of LaVista, NE; Jack Schmitz of Red Oak; Lenny (Doris) Schmitz of Harlan; Shirley Haner of Elk Horn; Doug (Lisa) Schmitz of LaVista, NE; Joe (Lory) Schmitz of Divide, CO; and Brian (Michelle) Schmitz of Omaha; and other relatives.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Dec. 12, 2002, by Auxiliary Bishop Salvatore J. Cordileone. His brothers and sister were pallbearers.

