

Rev. LaVern Wingert, 72

June 23, 1927 - Dec. 17, 1999

GRISWOLD - Rev. LaVern Wingert, son of Charles and Mary (Kohles) Wingert, was born June 23, 1927, on the family farm near Panama. He died Dec. 17, 1999, at age 72 at St. Joseph Hospital in Omaha, NE. He attended St. Mary's Grade and High School, graduating in May of 1945. After a variety of jobs, he attended college at St. Benedict's in Atchison, KS, Conception Seminary in Conception, MO and Mt. St. Bernard Seminary in Dubuque.

He was ordained to the priesthood in May of 1957, and had held assignments as assistant pastor at St. Boniface, Westphalia; St. Joseph's in Earling; St. Anthony's in Des Moines; St. Mary's in Panama; and St. Michael's in Harlan. He had held pastorates in St. Patrick's in Lenox; Sacred Heart in Bedford; St. Mary's in Avoca; St. Patrick's in Walnut and Holy Rosary in Glenwood. In July of 1981, he was assigned to Our Lady of Grace in Griswold, and was also director of Wakonda Prayer House in Griswold. His present assignment was St. Patrick's in Massena and Wakonda Prayer House in Griswold.

May 31, 1982, he celebrated his silver anniversary to the priesthood with a mass at Wakonda, for the Bishop, priests, sisters, family and close friends. Then on the following Sunday, he had an outdoor mass and open house reception at Wakonda Prayer House.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles and Mary; brother, Isadore Wingert; sister, Anna (Wingert) Kenkel; brothers-in-law, William Kenkel and Harold Klein; and sister-in-law, Stella (Schmitz) Wingert. He is survived by his sister, Geraldina (Wingert) Klein of Dunlap; two brothers, Reno Wingert of Panama and Louis Wingert (Virginia) (Blum) of Panama; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Dec. 20, 1999, at the St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Massena, with Rev. Leonard Kenkel, celebrant; Rev. Fred Reischl, homilist; and Rev. Mr. Fred Corwell, Deacon officiating. Burial was in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Panama. Casket bearers were Russ Klein, Harold Klein, Mike Wingert, David Kenkel, Bob Wingert, Bill Wingert, Paul Wingert and Sylvan Kenkel. Steen Funeral Home, Massena, in charge of arrangements.