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Rev. Anthony W. Fischer, 94

August 26, 1904-April 8, 1999

MARSHFIELD, WI - Father Anthony Fischer was born Aug. 26, 1904 in Whitelaw, WI to Joseph and Margaret (Kellner) Fischer, the second youngest of five sons, all of whom are deceased. He attended St. John's Elementary School in Marshfield and obtained bachelors and masters degrees in theology from St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee in 1929. He was ordained to the priesthood by Most Rev. Paul P. Rohde Feb. 2, 1929 at St. Francis Seminary.

His first pastoral appointments were at St. James Parish, Aquinas High School and St. Michael's Orphanage in La Crosse. In 1930 he was named assistant pastor at St. Anthony's Parish, Athens while also serving St. Joseph's Parish in Black River Falls and St. Mary's Hospital in Sparta. In 1933 he became administrator of St. Boniface Parish, Waumandee. In 1945 Father Fischer was named pastor of St. Joseph's Parish, Stratford, and then served as pastor at St. Anne's Parish, Wausau from 1952 until his retirement in 1973. Since the early 1950s he served as chaplain for many Knights of Columbus Councils, as well as the Catholic Order of Foresters. He was named a parish consultor in 1953 and was a member of the Wausau Newman High School Board of Directors. On Feb. 7, 1999, Father Fischer celebrated the 70th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood at St. Anne's Parish in Wausau. He died peacefully in his sleep at home in Marshfield, WI, April 8, 1999. He had been the most senior priest of the diocese, having been retired since 1973.

Surviving him are one sister-in-law Josephine Fischer of Marshfield, his houskeeper of 57 years, Laura Schmitz, nieces, nephews, grand nieces and grand nephews in the Milwaukee and Marshfield areas.

The Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. John the Baptist Church in Marshfield April 12, 1999 with Bishop Raymond Burke presiding. Burial was in the Gate of Heaven, Marshfield, WI.