

## Rev. Cornelius J. Gaul, 83

*Feb. 19, 1920 - June 22, 2003*

**EARLING** – Rev. Cornelius John Gaul was born Feb. 19, 1920, on a farm southeast of Earling, and was one of 12 children born to Peter and Elizabeth Schechinger Gaul. He was baptized, confirmed and received his First Holy Communion at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. Rev. Cornelius attended St. Joseph's Catholic School in Earling and was a member of the graduating class of 1937. He then continued his education at Dowling Junior College in Des Moines. Following Dowling Junior College, he attended St. Ambrose College in Davenport for one year. Rev. Cornelius studied philosophy at St. Paul's Seminary in St. Paul, MN, and theology at Conception Seminary in Conception, MO.



July 25, 1945, Rev. Cornelius was ordained into the Catholic Priesthood at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. He was an assistant pastor at various parishes for 11 years including: Granger in 1945-1948, St. Ambrose Cathedral 1948-1952, St. Augustine 1952-1955, St. Boniface 1955-1956, and a pastor for 29 years at different parishes throughout the Des Moines Diocese. He served at St. Patrick's Irish Settlement from 1956-1958, and was the pastor of Sacred Heart Church at Chariton from 1958-1978. During that time, he completely remodeled the church and the rectory and built a new parish center. In 1975, Rev. Cornelius began to offer Mass for residents of Wayne County at the Methodist Church, which evolved into St. Francis Parish. He was transferred in 1978 to Greenfield, where he was instrumental in providing spaces for the parish offices. Rev. Cornelius retired July 8, 1985, and moved back to Earling. He celebrated Golden Jubilee July 23, 1995. April 18, 2000, Rev. Cornelius became a resident of Little Flower Haven. He was the chaplain for the Catholic Daughters of the Americas for several years and was a member of the 3rd Degree Knights of Columbus Earling Council No. 1741 and the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Honor Guard. Rev. Cornelius died June 22, 2003, at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, NE, at age 83 years, four months and three days.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Isidore, Ferdinand, Rev. Hilary, Gerald and an infant brother, Joseph. Survivors include his brothers and sister, Sylvester Gaul (Betty) of Davenport; Francis Gaul (Claire) of Longview, WA; Adelaide Croghan of Woodbine; Peter Gaul, Jr. (Hilary Mae) of Melbourne, FL; Leo Gaul (Agnes) of Harlan; Charles Gaul (Irene) of Holt, MO; sisters-in-law, Madeleine Gaul of Davenport; Dorothy Gaul of Earling; and Bernice Book of Earling; nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated June 26, 2003, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church with Rev. Michael Berner celebrant and the Most Reverend Joseph L. Charron, C.P.P.S., Bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines, concelebrant. Burial was in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Earling, with Jeff Gaul, Ronald Gaul, Tim Gaul, Bob Croghan, Phil Croghan, Ray Croghan and Frank Croghan casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.