

Rev. Eugene J. Klein, 81

Oct. 4, 1919 - Feb. 10, 2001

EARLING — Eugene Joseph Klein was born Oct. 4, 1919, to Anna (Kwapiszewski) and Joseph Klein on a farm near Panama. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama. He attended school at St. Mary's in Panama, and was a member of the St. Mary's Catholic High School Graduating Class of 1936. He also attended Dowling College in Des Moines from 1937 - 1939. Following graduation, he continued his education at St. Ambrose College, Davenport, from 1939 - 1940, St. Paul's College in St. Paul, MN, from 1940 - 1942, and Conception Seminary in Conception, MO, from 1942 - 1945. He was ordained into the Catholic Priesthood July 25, 1945, by Most Rev. G.T. Bergan, D.D. at St. Joseph's in Earling.

Rev. Klein's first assignment following his ordination was as an assistant priest at St. John's, Des Moines, in 1945. In 1949, he served as assistant priest at St. Peter's in Defiance, and in 1950 as a visitation assistant in Des Moines. He was assigned as pastor to St. Clare's in Clarinda, from 1955 - 1962. Rev. Klein served as a United States Army Chaplain from 1962 to 1965. During this time, he was stationed in Korea for a year and a half. Following his honorable discharge, he accepted the task of building St. John's Catholic Church in Greenfield. While construction took place, services were held in the Greenfield Methodist Church demonstrating a true Ecumenical spirit on the part of both denominations. Also at this time, Rev. Klein served as parish priest to St. Mark's, Orient, until 1978, when he was transferred to St. Thomas Aquinas in Indianola. He remained at St. Thomas Aquinas until his retirement July 10, 1985. Following his retirement, he made his home on a farm near Earling, where he remained until his death. Rev. Klein was a 3rd Degree Knights of Columbus No. 1741 of Earling, and the Luke E. Hart General Assembly 4th Degree Knights of Columbus No. 1045 of Defiance, and its Chalice Club. He died Feb. 10, 2001, at Myrtue Memorial Hospital at age 81 years, four months and six days.

He was preceded in death by his parents and is survived by his brothers, Leonard Klein (Veronica) of Harlan and Otto Klein (Margaret) of Panama; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was concelebrated Feb. 16, 2001, at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Panama, with the Most Reverend Joseph L. Charron, C.P.P.S., Bishop of the Diocese of Des Moines celebrating and Revs. Michael Peters and Michael Berner concelebrating with Rev. Mr. Marvin Klein assisting. Military rites were conducted in St. Mary's Cemetery by the Panama American Legion Post No. 601, with Dean Klein, Kenneth Klein, Alan Klein, David Klein, Rex Buckley and Larry Klein casket bearers. Pauley Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

