

Msgr. John J. McIlhon, 83

June 6, 1922 - Feb. 13, 2006

JOHNSTON — John J. McIlhon, the first of John and Bea McIlhon's five children, was born June 6, 1922, in Des Moines. John was a 1940 graduate of Dowling High School. Answering the call to serve the Lord, Monsignor entered Conception Seminary in Conception, MO and completed his theology studies at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis, MO.

He was ordained Feb. 21, 1948, and served the Diocese of Des Moines in Granger, Woodward, Council Bluffs, Elkhart, Des Moines (Holy Trinity, St. Peter's and St. Pius X) and Defiance. He also taught at Dowling High School, the Drake Newman Center and at the North American College in Rome, Italy. Monsignor retired in 1989 but continued to assist at St. Pius X.

Monsignor was an accomplished author of several spiritual books and a longtime columnist for the *Catholic Mirror*. Along with his siblings and extended families, he used his gift as a pianist to entertain family and friends at many diverse gatherings. Among the many passions that Monsignor had, first and foremost was celebrating Mass and teaching. Furthermore, he was always a student and very accomplished in church history and the origin of words. He died of natural causes at Mercy Medical Center Feb. 13, 2006, at age 83.

Monsignor was preceded in death by his parents; his siblings, Daniel, Mary Ethel O'Connell, Patrick and Rev. James McIlhon. He is survived by his many nieces and nephews.

Services were held Feb. 17, 2006, at St. Pius X Catholic Church with burial in Glendale Cemetery.