

Bernard Zimmerman, 96

July 22, 1914 - Feb. 10, 2011

WESTPHALIA — Bernard "Barney" Peter Zimmerman was born on July 22, 1914 to Emil and Josephine (Posch) Zimmerman in Westphalia. He was baptized and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. He attended and graduated from St. Boniface Catholic School. He studied at St. Mary's Mission House in Techny, IL for five years before returning home in June of 1938 to help his parents on the family farm.

Barney was united in marriage to Valerie Gaul on September 2, 1947 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling. Eight children were born to this union: Maribeth, John, Rae, Rita, Paul, Thomas, Jodelle, and Philip. In January of 1948, they moved to a farm several miles northeast of Shelby, where they farmed for nine years. It was in January of 1957 when they moved to the Westphalia area and continued their agricultural pursuits of raising corn, soybeans, and dairy cows until his retirement in November of 1979. Barney was an active member of St. Boniface Catholic Church. He sang in the Choir, was a Minister of Communion and Catechist, served on the Pro-Life Committee and spent twenty-five years as President of the Credit Union board, was a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, and served as the Judicial Nominating Commissioner for the Iowa Fourth District. He was widely known for writing a twice monthly newspaper column for the Harlan newspaper. In 2007, he became a resident of Little Flower Haven Nursing Home in Earling, where he died on Thursday, February 10, 2011, having attained the age of ninety-six years, six months, and nineteen days.

Barney was preceded in death by his parents, his beloved wife Valerie, an infant son Thomas, sister Marie, brothers Jack, Fr. Al, Fr. Tony, and Roman and son-in-law Wilfred Macaulay. He is survived by his children: Maribeth Zimmerman of Westphalia, John Zimmerman and his wife Bonnie of Westphalia, Rae Zimmerman of Westphalia, Rita Macaulay of Omaha, NE, Paul Zimmerman and his wife Arlene of Westphalia, Sr. Jodelle Zimmerman, OSB of Yankton, SD, and Philip Zimmerman and his wife Sharyn of Westphalia; thirteen grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; sisters Betty and her husband Vern Gaul of Earling, Ann and her husband John Gaul of Omaha, and Sr. Irene Zimmerman, SSSF of Milwaukee, WI; brother Larry Zimmerman and his wife Theresa of New Richmond, WI; other family members, and friends.

Rev. Chris Fontanini celebrated the 1:00 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial on Saturday, February 12, 2011 at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Westphalia. Serving as casket bearers were Jeffrey Zimmerman, Stephen Zimmerman, David Zimmerman, Daniel Zimmerman, Brad Zimmerman, and Dan Schumacher. Interment was held at St. Boniface Cemetery in Westphalia.



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