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October 11, 2001

Rev. Michael C. Fitzgerald

Nov. 13, 1950, to Oct. 2, 2001

The Rev. Michael C. Fitzgerald, 50, of the Archdiocese of Dubuque died Tuesday, Oct. 2, at OSF St. Anthony's Hospital, Rockford, Ill., as the result of a motor vehicle accident 14 miles west of Freeport, Ill.

He was born Nov. 13, 1950, in Ames to Robert Charles and Pauline (Wagner) Fitzgerald. He attended Nevada High School and graduated with the Class of 1969. He earned an associate's degree at Ellsworth Community College and continued his education at Conception Seminary, Conception, Mo., and St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. He was ordained May 27, 1978, at his home parish, St. Patrick's in Nevada, by Archbishop James J. Byrne. After temporary duties at St. Joseph Parish, Dubuque, and Immaculate Conception, Cedar Rapids, his first assignment was as associate pastor at St. Francis Xavier Basilica, Dyersville, where he also served on the faculty of Beckman High School. In 1984, he was appointed to St. Patrick's, Cedar Falls, and St. Mary's, Dike, while also serving on the faculty of Columbus High School, Waterloo. He was named associate pastor of Pius X, Cedar Rapids, in 1987. He was named pastor at Assumption, Cresco, and St. Bridgette's, Bluffton in 1989. In 1996, he was also named pastor at St. Joseph's Cresco and administrator of St. Agnes, Plymouth Rock. He was instrumental in combining the parishes in Cresco into Notre Dame. In 1997 he was appointed pastor of St. Joseph's, Marion, and St. Isidore's, Springville. In 1999 he began serving in Sacramental Services at the Iowa State Reformatory, Anamosa.

Survivors include his mother, Pauline Fitzgerald of Nevada; four brothers, James (and Kathleen) of Aurora, Ill., Philip (and Mary Jo) of Muscatine, and John (and Sandra) and Patrick, both of Nevada; and two sisters, Rebecca (and David) Burdess of Colfax and Janese Kline of Nevada; and nine nieces and nephews.

His father, Robert C. Fitzgerald, preceded him in death.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Oct. 6, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Nevada. Presiding at Mass of Christian Burial was Most Rev. Jerome G. Hanus, O.S.B., Archbishop of Dubuque. The homilist was the Rev. Dennis Cahill. Concelebrating were Revs. Ardel Barta, Dick Funke, Leon Connolly, Jerry Kopacek, Justin Kane, Joe O'Brien, David Wheeler, Jim Hayes, Michael McMillen,

S.C.J., Jon Seda, John Herzog and Carl Ries. A private burial was held Sunday in the St. Patrick's Cemetery. Kramer Funeral Home, Dyersville, and Chet Ryan Mortuary, Nevada, handled arrangements.

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