

Rev. Monsignor Richard “Rick” Dierkes

Msgr. Dierkes
St. Joseph, Mo. —

The Rev. Monsignor Richard M. “Rick” Dierkes, 53, St. Joseph, went to be with the Lord Sunday, July 27, 2008 after a lengthy illness. He was at the University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, Ill. He was born to Thomas P. and Dorothy (McClintic) Dierkes in Hannibal on Feb. 26, 1955.

He was raised in Independence, attending St. Mary’s and Nativity Elementary Schools and graduated from Truman High School in 1973. While attending Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Mo., he decided to study for the priesthood. He attended Conception Seminary in Conception and later received a master’s degree in theology from Kenrick Seminary, Saint Louis.

Msgr. Rick was ordained a priest on April 25, 1981, at Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Kansas City, Mo. During his time as a priest, he served parishes in Parkville, Blue Springs and Kansas City, Mo., before becoming pastor of St. Patrick Parish in St. Joseph and St. Joseph Easton parish in Easton. For the past 12 years, he had been the pastor of the Co-Cathedral in St. Joseph.

Msgr. Rick not only inspired parishioners for decades with his Gospel teachings, but lived out his faith and shepherded his parishioners, while suffering with a debilitating illness which often



left him weak and in much physical pain. By his deep and abiding faith in the Lord, he was able to serve in this way, and live out his call to priesthood.

Msgr. Rick was preceded in death by his grandparents, Joe and Ann (McIntyre) Dierkes, Hannibal, and Garnett and Olivia (Parsons) McClintic, Monroe City; and aunts and uncles, Betty and Fred Evans, Robert (Bob) and James (Jim) Dierkes, and Helen (Dierkes) Becker.

Survivors include his parents, Thomas P. and Dorothy M. (McClintic) Dierkes of Rowlett, Texas; five brothers, Thomas J. Dierkes and his wife, Beth, of Brentwood, Tenn., William G. Dierkes and his wife, Maureen, of Rochester Hills, Mich., -----, Timothy J. Dierkes and his wife, Dee, of Rowlett, Texas, and David A. Dierkes of Dallas, Texas; three sisters, Deborah J. Smith and Teri M. Treece and her husband, Greg, all of Rowlett, Texas, and Becky A. McKeever and her husband, Gary, of Blue Springs; aunts and uncles, William (Bill), Wilma (Billie), Richard and his wife, Karen, Robert (Bob) and his wife, Elizabeth (Bettie) McClintic, Joe and his wife, Catherine (Kate) McClintic-Engle, Bud Becker, Helga and Helen Dierkes; 22 nieces and nephews; and seven great-nieces and great-nephews.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, at St. Joseph Cathedral Catholic Church, St. Joseph. Interment will be at Mount Olivet Cemetery, St. Joseph. Friends may call after 5 p.m. Thursday, July 31, Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory, St. Joseph.

Monsignor Dierkes will be removed from Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory to arrive at the church for a reception at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 1. The family will receive friends from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, with a wake service at 7 p.m. Friday at St. Joseph Cathedral Catholic Church, St. Joseph.

The family suggests memorial gifts to the St. Joseph Cathedral Parish Capital Campaign, the Cold Weather Shelter, St. Joseph, the St. Joseph Cathedral Food Pantry, or Endowment for the St. Joseph School.

<http://www.hannibal.net/obituaries/x1470915653/Rev-Monsignor-Richard-Rick-Dierkes?view=print>