

July 13, 2004

Father George Heinzen, CPPS



Father Heinzen was born Jan. 8, 1915, in Milwaukee, Wisc. He made his perpetual commitment in the Society of the Precious Blood in 1936. With the urgent need for priests in the United States as the clouds of war loomed, he and his class were ordained ahead of schedule on Sept. 8, 1940, by Bishop George Rehring, auxiliary of Cincinnati, in the seminary chapel at Carthage, Ohio.

Father Heinzen answered the call for military chaplains in 1943 and enlisted in the United States Army. Active duty took him to India, Burma, and Okinawa and Manila in the Philippines.

After mustering out of service in 1946, his pastoral assignments included: St. Joseph, Wapakoneta, Ohio; St. Anthony, Park Falls, Wisc.; St. Theresa, Rockford, Ohio; Mary, Help of Christians, Fort Recovery, Ohio; St. Mary, Nebraska City, Neb.; St. Stanislaus, Ingalls (1968-76); Holy Ghost, Vinita, Okla; and St. Patrick, Georgetown, Iowa.

During Father Heinzen's pastorate at Ingalls, the parish hosted the National Catholic Rural Life Conference (Nov. 8, 1971). A new church entrance with an adjacent daily Mass chapel was constructed in 1975. He also served on the Diocesan Ecumenical Commission. When Father Heinzen left the diocese, Bishop Forst presented him with the Guadalupe Award.

He was in retirement at the Precious Blood Center in Liberty, Mo., when he died July 13, 2004, at the age of 89. The funeral was at St. Charles Seminary in Carthage with burial in the Society's cemetery.

Two siblings became School Sisters of Notre Dame: Sister Mary Frances and Sister Mary George.