

April 12, 1995

Father Richard Kolega, CPPS



Father Kolega was born Sept. 1, 1946, in St. Joseph, Mo. He was incorporated as a member of the Society of the Precious Blood Aug. 15, 1967, and ordained June 9, 1973, by the Most Rev. Joseph Marling, CPPS, of Jefferson City at St. Francis Xavier Church in St. Joseph.

After a brief assignment at Annunciation in Chicago, he was assigned to St. Mary's, Garden City, where he served as parochial vicar for a year.

In 1974, he was appointed parochial vicar at St. Mary, San Angelo, Tex. He received his first pastorate in 1978 at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sweetwater, Tex., with the mission St. Albert, Roscoe. In 1983, he returned to San Angelo as pastor at St. Mary.

In 1986, Father Kolega began a three-year term as pastor of St. Anthony, Lakin. Then in 1989 he assumed the pastoral care of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Dodge City.

He moved to Kansas City, Mo., in 1991 where he took a position in the Center for Pastoral Life and Ministry, working with the Spanish speaking. There he also taught in the New Wine program for lay ministry, catechists formation, and leadership development. He was also coordinator of Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Kansas City - St. Joseph.

Father Kolega contracted hepatitis following a trip to South America. This illness forced him to discontinue his ministry in September of 1994. He died April 12, 1995. Father Mark Miller, provincial, celebrated the funeral Mass at St. Francis Xavier Church in St. Joseph, Mo. Burial was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in St. Joseph.