

January 31, 1998

Father Donald Pikell, OP



Father Donald (Edward Pikell) was born Sept. 25, 1933, in Chicago. He entered the Dominican novitiate at St. Peter Martyr Priory, Winona, Minn., Aug 30, 1953, and was given the religious name Donald. He professed first vows Aug. 31, 1954. He was ordained June 4, 1960 at St. Rose of Lima Priory, Dubuque, Iowa, by the Most Rev. Leo Binz, archbishop of Dubuque. He then studied at the University of St. Thomas Aquinas, Rome, and obtained the Licentiate in Sacred Theology.

His first assignment in ministry was as an instructor in philosophy at both De Lourdes College, Des Plaines, Ill., and Aquinas Institute, River Forest, Ill. In 1964, he joined the faculty of St. Xavier College, Chicago. In 1970 he was assigned associate pastor at Holy Ghost, Hammond, La., where he served until 1972 when he joined the campus ministry staff at Lamar University, Beaumont, Tex. In 1974 he was transferred to Champaign, Ill, and was a member of the campus ministry staff at the University of Illinois, a ministry he carried out for nine years. From 1983 through 1995, he ministered as an associate pastor at St. Gertrude, St. Claire Shores, Mich.

After 12 years he embarked on a new apostolic ministry and became a staff member of the Heartland Center for Spirituality in Great Bend, as well as chaplain to the Dominican Sisters there (1995-98).

Father Pikell died Jan. 31, 1998, the result of acute respiratory distress. He was 64 years old. Bishop Schlarman celebrated the funeral in the Dominican Chapel of the Plains. Burial was in the Dominican plot of All Saints Cemetery, Des Plaines, Ill.