

Mildred Schechinger, 81

March 25, 1923 - July 14, 2004

AVOCA – Mildred Catherine Schechinger, the daughter of Francis and Bertha Henrietta (Blum) Von Tersch, was born March 25, 1923, in Defiance. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. She graduated from St. Paul's Catholic School in Defiance, and continued on at Mount Saint Scholastica College in Atchinson, KS. She then began teaching rural school near Defiance.

June 10, 1944, Mildred married Alphonse Schechinger at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Defiance. After their marriage, they lived in New York while Al was in the Navy. They moved back to Iowa in 1950 and started farming near Panama. In 1952, Mildred suffered a series of strokes, which she overcame during her lifetime. Six children were born to this union, Robert, Jolene, David, Jim, Mark and Lee. In 1966, Mildred and Al moved to Logan, where she taught CCD. In 1972, they moved to Harlan. They became active members of St. Michael's Catholic Church. She was instrumental in the refunding program which raised over two hundred thousand dollars to furnish new pews and windows for the church. In 2003, Mildred and Al became residents of the Avoca Assisted Living Center in Avoca. June 10, 2004, Mildred and Al celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. She died July 14, 2004, at Jennie Edmundson Hospital in Council Bluffs, at age 81 years, three months and 20 days.

In addition to her parents, Mildred was preceded in death by her brothers and sisters, Robert Von Tersch, Joyce Will, Eugene Von Tersch, Marie Von Tersch, Darlene Rau, Bonnie Maguire and Maxine Sievertsen. Survivors include her husband, Al Schechinger of Avoca; her children, Robert Schechinger (Norøne) of Panama; Jolene (Phil) Koesters of Harlan; David Schechinger (Pamela) of Bloomfield, NM; Jim Schechinger (Mary) of Harlan; Mark Schechinger (Deborah) of Harlan; Lee Schechinger (Tammie) of Harlan; 24 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; her brother and sisters, Dean Von Tersch of Palmer; Sister Elizabeth Von Tersch of San Diego, CA; and Carol Von Tersch of Lawrence, KS; sisters-in-law, Elizabeth Von Tersch of Yardly, PA and Verta Mae Von Tersch of Denison; brothers-in-law, Leo Rau of Omaha, NE and James Maguire of Humphrey, NE; and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 17, 2004, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Harlan, with Rev. John Frost officiating. Burial was in the Harlan Cemetery with her grandchildren, Teresa Mardesen, Joni Leinen, Anne Schoenauer, Gina Schechinger, Renee Schechinger, Jill Schechinger, Becky Steinke, Jenne Gregor, Dianne Heath, Heather Florell, Gaylen Petsche, Tammie Christianson, Nathan Finken, Danielle Finken and Brittni Finken honorary casket bearers. Casket bearers were her grandchildren, Micah Finken, Jeffrey Schechinger, Joey Koesters, Eric Schechinger, David Koesters, Paul Schechinger, Michael Schechinger, Steve Schechinger and Matthew Schechinger. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.