

Msgr. Michael Schwarte, 93 ✓

June 25, 1912 - May 31, 2006

PORTSMOUTH — Michael William Schwarte, the son of William and Mary Ann Schiltz Schwarte, was born June 25, 1912, in Westphalia. He attended schools at St. Boniface Catholic School in Westphalia, Des Moines Catholic College in Des Moines, St. Paul Seminary in Minnesota, and Harvard University in Cambridge, MA.

He was ordained by Bishop Gerald T. Bergan June 11, 1938, given an interim appointment at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Osceola, then to St. Patrick's in Perry. At St. Francis Xavier, Rev. Michael was a Catholic Youth Director of the Deanery. In 1942, he went to Dowling High School in Des Moines, as a teacher, Director of Athletics for eighteen years, and director of the band for three years. For eight years, Rev. Schwarte was president of the State Athletic Conference for Private Schools and aided in merging that conference with the Iowa High School Athletic Association. With Merle Schlamp of Roosevelt, he helped form the present Metropolitan League in Des Moines. Father was president of Dowling and Vicor Foraine of the East Deanery. He was named Monsignor in 1959 by Pope John XXIII.

In 1965, Monsignor became pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth, and directed consolidation of parochial schools in Shelby County. He was a member of the first Diocesan Board of Education and wrote its constitution. He also served on the formation board of the Diocesan Council of Priests for eleven years. Monsignor served on the board planning the Regional Councils to replace the Deanery System, and on the formation board of the Diocesan Pastoral Council for two years.

After World War II, Monsignor Schwarte helped Father Gorman with refugees and displaced persons. He made his first round-the-world trip in 1951, which formed an interest in underdeveloped areas served by missionaries. He made six round-the-world trips to assist the underdeveloped areas and missions of the world.

In 1969, Monsignor Schwarte became pastor of St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Council Bluffs; in 1973, he became pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Earling, and July 17, 1975, after thirty-eight years of teaching, he became pastor of St. John's Parish in Cumming.

In 1982, Msgr. Schwarte retired and resided in Portsmouth. July 7, 1998, he became a resident of the Little Flower Haven Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Earling. It was there that he died May 31, 2006, at age 93 years, 11 months and six days.

In addition to his parents, Msgr. Schwarte was preceded in death by his brothers and sister, Herman, Joseph, William, Sylvan, and Raymond Schwarte and Bernice Schwarte. Survivors include his brothers and sisters, William Schwarte of Earling; Marie (Joe) Sullivan of Panama; Caroline Esser of Logan; Margaret (Jerry) Eipperle of Omaha, NE; Martin Schwarte (Peggy) of Harlan; and other relatives.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held June 5, 2006, at St. Mary Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church in Portsmouth with the Most Rev. Joseph L. Charron, C.P.P.S. celebrating and Rev. John Dorton concelebrating. Burial was held at St. Boniface Cemetery in Westphalia with Randy Schwarte, John Sullivan, David Schwarte, Tom Schwarte, Joe Esser and Mike Fecci casket bearers. Pauley Jones Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

