

Reverend Paul F. Eisele, age 81, of Le Mars, Iowa, died Monday, April 24, 2023.

Paul Francis Eisele was born April 19, 1942, to Frank and Inez (Schwarzenbach) Eisele in Whittemore, Iowa. He attended Presentation Academy in Whittemore until becoming a member of the first senior class at the new Garrigan High School in Algona, graduating in 1960.

His family had a great devotion to St. Isidore. As a boy, Paul faced life-threatening surgery. A bystander gave him a relic of St. Isidore and the family attributed his miraculous recovery to the saint's intercession. His father built a St. Isidore shrine on the family farm in thanksgiving.

He attended Loras College and Mount St. Bernard Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa and earned master's degrees from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska and St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Indiana.

During the summers of 1960 through 1963 he was a tour guide at the Grotto of the Redemption in West Bend, Iowa.

Father Eisele was ordained on June 1, 1968, by Bishop Joseph Mueller at the Cathedral of the Epiphany in Sioux City, becoming the 13th priestly vocation from tiny St. Michael's Parish in Whittemore. He served as a priest for nearly 55 years. Father Eisele's love of his Lord Jesus and his people was evident in his reverent administration of Mass and the Sacraments.

He taught vocal music and religion, and served as principal and pastor or parochial vicar in the following schools and parishes: Bishop Heelan Catholic High School, Sioux City; St. Mary's Parish, Remsen; St. Mary's High School, Remsen; St. Joseph's Parish, Bode; Bishop Garrigan High School, Algona; St. Cecelia Parish, Algona; St. Mary's Parish, Alton; St. Anthony's Parish, Hospers; Spalding Catholic Schools, Granville, Alton and Hospers; St. James Parish, LeMars; Gehlen Catholic Schools, Le Mars; St. John the Baptist Parish, Quimby.

Father Eisele retired to Le Mars in 2015 and greatly enjoyed offering noon Mass at St. James, parish events, helping the choirs at Gehlen, guiding the music at the Le Mars Community Theater, and visits of friends and family at his church-side condo.

His interests were varied and intense. He thrived on traveling the United States and Europe, with a special place in his heart for all things Disney. He loved plants and flowers, latch hook and cross stitch, art and theater, sports and history, vacationing and ministering, and sharing great food and the chemistry set. He came from a musical family who played at barn dances, and he cultivated that heritage extensively, sharing his talents with countless students, old and young. He was close to his brother priests and deacons and kept in contact with many of his former seminary classmates, students, and school colleagues. To know "Fr. E" was to become endeared to "Fr. E," aka "Padre."

He is survived by his brother, Robert, and sister-in-law, Judy, and their children, Carol (Jack) Pentlarge, Tom (Carissa), and Susan (Justin) Whitehouse, three great nieces, one great nephew, and many cousins.

Father Eisele was preceded in death by his parents.

Father Paul Eisele



April 19, 1942 - April 24, 2023

Grant us, we beseech Thee, O God, that by the intercession of Thy confessor, the holy farm laborer Isidore, we may overcome pride. May we always serve you with that humility which pleases you, with the aid of Isidore's merits and example. Amen.
(Prayer from Father's office.)

Saint Isidore The Farmer



As a 15 year old boy, doctors gave Paul "No hope at all" to survive a second surgery from complications of appendicitis. A man overheard the doctor telling Paul his odds and requested to give the sick boy a Saint Isidore relic to help his healing. With the relic on his chest, against all odds, after 12 days in critical condition Paul began to heal.

Paul and his father, Frank built an 8 foot shrine on their family farm to honor the blessings he received.

Father E. was forever grateful to St. Isidore.

On behalf of our family, we would like to thank everyone for your kind expressions of sympathy and prayerful support, for gifts seen and unseen beautifying the services, and for your donations toward the Gehlen Fine Arts Department.

Fr. Paul's Gehlen and All Saints family was such an important part of the last phase of his life. All the places he served were so dear to him and we thank you for taking such good care of "Father E."

With love from the family of Fr. Paul Eisele

Scriptural Prayer Service

7:00 P.M. Friday, April 28, 2023

Memorial Mass

10:00 A.M. Saturday, April 29, 2023

All Saints Catholic Parish - St. Joseph Church
605 Plymouth Street NE - Le Mars, IA

Clergy: Rev. Bruce Lawler Rev. Doug Klein
and Other Clergy of The Diocese of Sioux City

Musician: Terra Falkena

Cantors: Rachael Wragge Lori Schuch
Gehlen Choir

Lectors: Carolyn Bickford Tom Schuch



Rosary

2 P.M. Sunday, April 30, 2023

St. Mary's Catholic Church - 301 Fulton Street - Remsen, IA



Mass of Christian Burial

11:00 A.M. Monday, May 1, 2023

Divine Mercy Catholic Parish - St. Michael's Church
603 3rd Street - Whittemore, IA

Clergy: Bishop R. Walker Nickless officiating
and Other Clergy of The Diocese of Sioux City
Musician: Betty Lappe Cantor: Marisa Merkel
Lectors: Mary Beth Bestenlehner Anne Selner

Casket Bearers

Deacons of the Diocese of Sioux City

Final Resting Place

St. Michael Cemetery, Whittemore, IA

Services Entrusted To

Fisch Funeral Home & Monument - Remsen, Iowa

**Please join us in the St. Michael's Parish Hall
after the burial for a time of food and fellowship.**