

Redemptorist dies at age 90

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By CATHOLIC VOICE



Father Francis A. Novak, a former Omaha resident who served as a Redemptorist priest for 53 years, died June 24 at age 90 at the St. Clement Health Care Center in Liguori, Mo., where he lived since retiring in 2002.

A funeral Mass was held June 28 at the Liguori Mission House Chapel. Interment was in the Redemptorist Cemetery in Liguori.

Born in Dwight, Neb., Feb. 4, 1923, Father Novak grew up in Holy Name Parish with five siblings after his parents, Frank and Mary Novak, moved the family to Omaha in 1934.

Two of Novak's brothers also became Redemptorist priests. A sister joined the Notre Dame Sisters in 1933.

Father Novak's service included missionary and retreat master at St. George Parish and Mission Center in Cooperstown, N.D., and promotion manager for "Liguorian" magazine. He also served parishes and worked in diocesan offices in the Diocese of Grand Rapids in Grand Rapids, Mich.

In 1974 he was elected the first full-time national executive director of the National Catholic Stewardship Council. In the 1980s, Father Novak developed the Christian Celebration of Life, a program promoting evangelization, discipleship and stewardship for diocese and parishes.

Father Novak is survived by two brothers, Redemptorist Father Henry Novak of Liguori, Mo., and Redemptorist Bishop Alfred E. Novak of Paranagua, Brazil, and nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Frank and Mary Novak, brother, Philip Novak, and two sisters, Marie Novak Maixner and Notre Dame Sister Elizabeth Novak.