



## Rev. Monsignor Richard “Rick” Dierkes 53, of St. Joseph

### Hannibal Courier-Post

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St. Joseph, Mo. — The Rev. Monsignor Richard M. “Rick” Dierkes, 53, St. Joseph, went to be with the Lord Sunday, July 27, due to a long illness. He was at the University of Chicago Medical Center, Chicago, Ill.

He was born to Thomas P. and Dorothy (McClintic) Dierkes in Hannibal on Feb. 26, 1955.

He was raised in Independence, attending St. Mary’s and Nativity Elementary Schools and graduated from Truman High School in Independence, Mo., attending Rockhurst University in Kansas City, Mo., he decided to study for the priesthood. He attended Conception Seminary in St. Joseph, Mo. and received a master’s degree in theology from Kenrick Seminary, Saint Louis.

Msgr. Rick was ordained a priest on April 25, 1981, at Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Kansas City, Mo. During his ministry, he served parishes in Parkville, Blue Springs and Kansas City, Mo., before becoming pastor of St. Patrick Parish in St. Joseph and St. Joseph in Easton. For the past 12 years, he had been the pastor of the Co-Cathedral in St. Joseph.

Msgr. Rick not only inspired parishioners for decades with his Gospel teachings, but lived out his faith and shepherded his flock with a debilitating illness which often left him weak and in much physical pain. By his deep and abiding faith in the Lord, he lived out his call to priesthood.

Msgr. Rick was preceded in death by his grandparents, Joe and Ann (McIntyre) Dierkes, Hannibal, and Garnett and Olive (Oli) Dierkes, Hannibal; and aunts and uncles, Betty and Fred Evans, Robert (Bob) and James (Jim) Dierkes, and Helen (Dierkes) Becker. Survivors include his parents, Thomas P. and Dorothy M. (McClintic) Dierkes of Rowlett, Texas; five brothers, Thomas Dierkes of Brentwood, Tenn., William G. Dierkes and his wife, Maureen, of Rochester Hills, Mich., John P. Dierkes and his wife, Patricia, of St. Joseph, Mo., Timothy J. Dierkes and his wife, Dee, of Rowlett, Texas, and David A. Dierkes of Dallas, Texas; three sisters, Deborah Dierkes and her husband, Greg, all of Rowlett, Texas, and Becky A. McKeever and her husband, Gary, of Blue Springs; aunts and uncles, Billie Dierkes, Richard and his wife, Karen, Robert (Bob) and his wife, Elizabeth (Bettie) McClintic, Joe and his wife, Catherine Dierkes, Helga and Helen Dierkes; 22 nieces and nephews; and seven great-nieces and great-nephews.

A Mass of Christian burial will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 2, at St. Joseph Cathedral Catholic Church, St. Joseph. Interment will be in St. Joseph Cemetery, St. Joseph. Friends may call after 5 p.m. Thursday, July 31, Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory, St. Joseph. Monsignor Dierkes will be removed from Meierhoffer Funeral Home & Crematory to arrive at the church for a reception at 6 p.m. Friday, with a wake service at 7 p.m. Friday at St. Joseph Cathedral Catholic Church. The family suggests memorial gifts to the St. Joseph Cathedral Parish Capital Campaign, the Cold Weather Shelter, St. Joseph Cathedral Food Pantry, or Endowment for the St. Joseph School.

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