

FRANK NIESET OBITUARY

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The Rev. Frank Nieset, of Toledo, an author who was a retired longtime priest in the Toledo Catholic Diocese, died March 7 at Rosary Care Center of apparent heart failure. He was 86.

Ordained by Bishop George Rehring in 1956, Father Nieset was a priest in the diocese for 38 years until his retirement in 1994 for health reasons.

"He was very concerned about people and their families, and relationships, and with developing young people into good citizens and faithful Catholics," his brother, Charles Nieset, said.

"He was quite empathetic to people and, in my mind, he was a Biblical scholar in a sense that he could relate the Biblical tradition to the current time. And he was a good preacher," Charles Nieset said.

After ordination, he served as assistant pastor at St. Mary Parish in Sandusky, then as high school principal. He also served at Calvert High School in Tiffin and Cardinal Stritch High School in Oregon; was pastor at St. Clement, Toledo, and St. Paul, Norwalk; was chaplain at the Little Sisters of the Poor in Oregon, and administrator at St. Aloysius, Bowling Green, and St. James, Toledo.

In retirement, Father Nieset helped at parishes in Arizona and California before returning to the Toledo area in 2004.

He also wrote books that give examples of the demands and joys of the priesthood. The reason for writing, he said in a 2008 interview with the Blade, was to give people - especially those considering the priesthood - a

sense of what it's like to be a parish priest.

Father Nieset told The Blade he wanted to help alleviate the growing shortage of priests by encouraging readers to take a step toward ordination.

His first book, *Guys in Roman Collars*, was published in 2005. Three years later, he published the sequel, *More Guys in Roman Collars*.

"I wrote it mainly for guys 15 to 50, but it's really for anybody," Father Nieset said in the interview.

He said he was inspired to write *Guys in Roman Collars* at his seminary's 40th class reunion after hearing colleagues swap interesting stories.

"I thought, 'Here's a book!' and I started to write," he said. "... Priests are usually tight-lipped, except when they're around other priests."

Father Nieset was born Aug. 7, 1928 in Millersville, Ohio.