

Gazette, January 29, 1990

## Car-truck crash kills Clutier priest

### Gazette staff reports

CLUTIER — The Rev. Louis Wunder of Clutier was killed Sunday morning when the car he was driving went through a stop sign and was hit by a truck in Tama County.

Pastor of three Catholic churches, Wunder, 54, apparently was returning home after giving Sunday services at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Garwin.

He was pronounced dead in the emergency room at Marshalltown Medical and Surgical Center, according to Iowa State Trooper Wayne Martin.

The accident happened around 11 a.m. at the intersection of highways 63 and 229 about eight miles north of Toledo.

Driving alone in his new car, Wunder was eastbound on Highway 229 — commonly called the Garwin turnoff — when he drove onto Highway 63 without stopping, Martin said.

A north-bound truck on Highway 63 driven by Charles Nicol, 41, of Baudette, Minn., struck Wunder's car.

Nicol's truck was hauling a smaller truck and hit Wunder's car broadside, Martin said, knocking Wunder into the back seat, where he was pinned until rescue workers arrived.

Toledo's Fire Department used the "Jaws of Life" to free Wunder, who was then rushed to the Marshalltown hospital.

Nicol and a passenger, Hazel

Strohl, 34, also of Baudette, Minn., were treated and released for minor injuries.

An autopsy will be performed. Mason-Hand Funeral Home of Tama and Clutier is in charge of arrangements.

In addition to the Garwin church, Wunder was pastor of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Clutier and at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church of rural Clutier.

Wunder just recently became the pastor at the Garwin church, Martin said, speculating that Wunder "may have had too much on his mind" when he was driving home.