

The Rev. Delbert Francis Blong, 73, of Littleton, Colo., formerly of Dubuque, died Monday, July 26, 1999, in Littleton. Memorial Mass of the Resurrection: 11 a.m. Saturday, St. Patrick Catholic Church, Dubuque, by Father Richard Kuhn. Burial: Mount Olivet Cemetery, Dubuque. Visitation: 9 a.m. to service time Saturday at the church. Arrangements are with Hoffmann-Schneider Funeral Home, Dubuque.

Survivors include his mother, Margaret Blong of Dubuque; sisters, Marge Ronan (husband Mike) of Littleton, Colo., Mary Anita Erickson of Monona, Betty



Arnzen (husband John) of Dubuque and Laura Staudacher (husband John) of Cedar Rapids; brother, Lee Blong (wife Becky) of Littleton, Colo.; sister-in-law, Shirley Blong of Dubuque; 26 nieces and nephews; 40 great-nieces and great-nephews; numerous aunts and uncles and many cousins.

He was preceded in death by his father, Leo J.; his brother, Donald; and a brother-in-law, Joseph Erickson.

He was born March 15, 1926, in Lawler, Iowa, to Leo J. and Margaret Schmitt Blong. Father Blong graduated from St. Paul's High School, Epworth; St. Mary's Technical, Illinois; Loras College, Dubuque, with a degree in philosophy; and Conception Seminary, Conception, Mo., with his degree in theology. He received sabbatical studies in Nemi, Italy. He was ordained a priest on June 7, 1952, in Dubuque, Iowa, for the Diocese of Pueblo, Colo. He was assigned parish priest to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, LaJunta, Colo., 1952-1967; Sacred Heart Church, Alamosa, Colo., 1967-1976; Christ the King Church, Pueblo, Colo., 1977-1985; and St. Columba, Durango, Colo., 1985-1991. He retired to Littleton, Colo., in July 1991.

Father Blong was dean of Pueblo, Alamosa and Durango deaneries, cursillo moderator/director and moderator of Diocesan Council of Catholic Woman, chairman and member of Diocesan Personnel Board, Diocesan consultor Episcopal vicar for Alamosa and Durango deaneries and served on the Diocesan Cemetery Board and Board of Catholic Schools. Father Blong co-operated and established soup kitchens, hostels and food banks in Alamosa and Pueblo, Colo.

A Rev. Delbert Blong Memorial Fund has been established.