

ST. LOUIS DEATHS

Rev. Michael Aten

Was pastor in Arizona

The Rev. Michael J. Aten, a former pastor at churches in Arizona, died Sunday (June 24,

2001) of a heart attack at his parents' home in Webster Groves. He was 56.

A native of Terre Haute, Ind., Father Aten and his family moved to Webster Groves when he was a teen-ager. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in history from St. Mary's University in San Antonio in 1967. Father Aten was called to the priesthood in

the early 1970s and completed theological studies at Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas.

In 1977, Father Aten was ordained as a priest for the Diocese of Gallup, N.M., and celebrated his first Mass at Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Webster Groves.

Father Aten was then assigned as an assistant pastor at St. Mary

of the Angels Catholic Church in Pinetop, Ariz. He was given his first assignment as pastor at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in St. John's, Ariz.

During his eight years there, Father Aten helped build a new religious instruction center and redecorated the church. In 1985, he was named Diocesan Consultor by the late Bishop Jerome Hastrich.

Father Aten then served as a chaplain in Phoenix before returning to Webster Groves on sabbatical.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. today at Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 676 West Lockwood Avenue, Webster Groves. Interment will be in Resurrection Cemetery.

Among his survivors are his parents, Charles and Edna Rose Aten of Webster Groves; two brothers, Charles Aten II of Black Jack and David Aten of St. Louis County; and a sister, Rosemary Bialecke of St. Louis County.

Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Louis Peregrine Society, 2343 Hampton Avenue, St. Louis, Mo. 63139.