

REV. FR. RICHARD C. RATAJCZAK

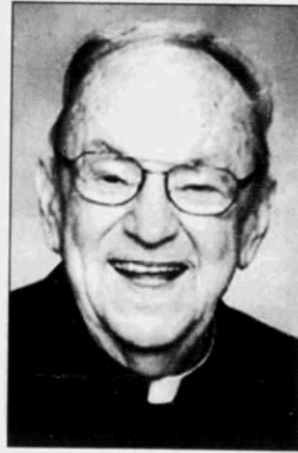
Rev. Fr. Richard C. Ratajczak, 79, of Auburn, died on Thursday, June 3, 2010, after a short illness.

Born on Feb 1, 1931 in Beaver Township, he was the son of the late Nicholas and Theresa (Rosek) Ratajczak. He attended the Cathedral School in Detroit and received his secondary education from St. Joseph Seminary in Grand Rapids.

Rev. Ratajczak went on to further priestly formation at Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit and St. John Provincial Seminary in Plymouth. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 7, 1958 by Bishop Stephen S. Woznicki at the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption in Saginaw.

During his priesthood, Rev. Ratajczak served as assistant pastor at St. James in Whittemore, St. Pius X in Hale, and the Cathedral of Mary of the Assumption in Saginaw. In 1963, he was appointed as pastor at St. Patrick in Crosswell, and St. John the Evangelist in Peck. He later served as pastor at St. Mary in Parisville, administrator at St. Patrick in Palms, and pastor at St. Maria Goretti in Bay City, St. Hedwig in Bay City, and St. Valentine in Beaver (Kawkawlin). He also served on the diocese's education and finance boards and as the coordinator for stewardship. He was granted senior priests status (retired) in 2004.

Fr. Richard is survived by his three brothers and one sister, Leonard of Midland, Edward (Charmaine), Frederick (Mary Jane) of Auburn, and Mary Jane (Thomas) Walter of Saginaw Township; six nieces; and six nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother, Ernest; and one sister-in-



law, Shirley Ratajczak.

The funeral mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Monday, June 7, 2010, at St. Valentine Catholic Church, 999 Nine Mile Rd. in Kawkawlin. The Most Rev. Joseph R. Cistone, Bishop of Saginaw, will preside. The Rev. James Carlson will preach the homily. Burial will take place at St. Valentine Parish Cemetery in Beaver Township.

Visitation will take place at St. Valentine Catholic Church from 2 - 8 p.m. today, including a 7 p.m. vigil liturgy led by The Rev. Richard Jozwiak. There also will be an opportunity for visitation beginning at 10 a.m. on Monday until the time of the funeral mass.

The family of Fr. Ratajczak would like to thank the entire staff of St. Francis Home on River Rd. in Saginaw, and Heartland Hospice Services for their kind and generous support of family, and professional and loving care of Fr. Richard.

Those planning an expression of sympathy may wish to consider a donation to St. Valentines Elementary School, Beaver Township, Kawkawlin, Michigan. Arrangements entrusted to the Auburn Chapel of the **Cunningham-Taylor Funeral Home Inc.**