

Fr. Robert Onofrey

Fr. Robert Onofrey, C.P.P.S., 76, died at 5:10 p.m. Tuesday, April 28, in the infirmary of St. Charles Center in Carthagen, following an extended illness.



He was born Dec. 18, 1932, in Cleveland to John and Olga (Zukovic) Onofrey.

He entered the Missionaries of the Precious Blood in 1954, and was ordained on June 8, 1963. Fr. Onofrey was a teacher of music and religion, and he spent most of his years as a priest in education. He was an instructor at Brunnerdale, the former high school seminary administered by the Missionaries in Canton, Ohio, from 1964-1972, and directed theater productions there. Later, he joined the music department of St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind., which is sponsored by the Missionaries. In 1985, he became a religion instructor at Marist High School in Chicago, and was also in ministry at St. Walter's Church there. He retired from teaching in 1997, and ministered at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Chicago through 2006. Fr. Onofrey was an innovative teacher and a dedicated musician. He was a gifted clarinetist and as a director of school choirs knew how to draw wonderful music from his students.

Fr. Onofrey loved the arts and in his spare time worked in ceramics and carvings. Survivors include a brother, Daniel (Clare) Onofrey of the Detroit area. Another brother, Edward (Shirley) Onofrey, are deceased.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Friday, May 1 at 2 p.m. at St. Charles, with Rev. Angelo Anthony, C.P.P.S., officiating. Rev. John Zvijak, C.P.P.S., was the homilist. Burial followed in the Community cemetery.