

Fr. Marvin Steffes, C.P.P.S., age 80 of St. Charles Center in Carthage, passed away late Monday afternoon, Aug. 29, 2011, at Community Hospital in Coldwater after suffering a stroke.



He was born Feb. 14, 1931, in Detroit, to Lawrence and Anna (Schumaker) Steffes. He entered the Missionaries of the Precious Blood (C.P.P.S.) in 1949 and was ordained in 1958.

Fr. Steffes was involved in parish ministry, teaching and administration through much of his life as a priest. After a year at his home parish of St. Anthony in Detroit, he became an assistant pastor at St. Mark in Cincinnati. He then spent the next 10 years in education, teaching at Carroll High School in Dayton and serving as principal at Cardinal Newman High School in Santa Rosa, Calif.

He was elected provincial councilor and named treasurer of the Province of the Pacific, of which he was a member, in 1970. In 1974, his fellow community members elected him provincial director.

In 1978, Fr. Steffes became a chaplain at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital in Santa Rosa, Calif. He returned to parish ministry in 1979 as pastor of St. Edward Church, Newark, Calif., where he served for 11 years. Parishes where he served later in life, all in California, included: St. Barnabas Church in Alameda, St. Anthony Church in Manteca, San Augustin Church in Scotts Valley, St. Joseph Church in Spreckels and Christ Child Church in Los Gatos.

In 2003, Fr. Steffes retired to the provincial center in San Leandro, Calif., and lived for a time in the community's Sonnino House in Berkeley. In 2008, he moved to St. Charles Center, where he remained until his death.

Survivors include three sisters: Madelynn Myers of Roseville, Mich., Thelma Shepherd of Warren, Mich. and Rosalie (Gordon) Britten of Jackson, Mich.; two brothers: Howard Steffes, of Troy, Mich. and Lawrence Steffes Jr. of Lansing, Mich.; a sister-in-law: Elaine Steffes of Clinton Township, Mich. and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by two brothers: Richard and Norman; a sister: LaDoris Neumann; a sister-in-law: Carol Steffes and three brothers-in-law: John Myers, Ronald Shepherd and William Neumann.

Fr. Steffes is remembered for having an open and generous heart. Fr. Jeffrey Keyes, C.P.P.S., now the pastor of St. Edward Parish in Newark, said parishioners there still remember him as a "wonderful pastor who had a way with words."

Fr. Jerry Stack, C.P.P.S., remembers coming as a young teacher to Cardinal Newman High School when Fr. Steffes was the principal. They had a warm working relationship then Fr. Stack watched Fr. Steffes evolve into many other roles in parish ministry and Community leadership. "He was engaged in a number of ministries in which he had great responsibilities, and he always approached these with a great sense of faith, commitment and professionalism," Fr. Stack said. "He was the kind of man who was ready to serve even if it was in a situation that he might not have chosen."

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated on Friday, Sept. 2 at 2 p.m. at St. Charles Center, the Very Rev. Larry Hemmelgarn, C.P.P.S., presiding. Fr. Thomas Beischel was the homilist. Burial followed in the community cemetery.

Fr. Vince Hoying, C.P.P.S., presided over a wake service at St. Charles Center at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 1, 2011.

A memorial Mass was celebrated at St. Edward Church in Newark, Calif., on Tuesday, Sept. 6 at 10:30 a.m., with Fr. Jeffrey Keyes presiding. Fr. James Franck, C.P.P.S., was the homilist.