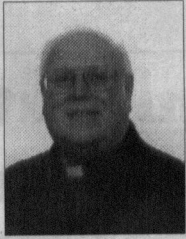


## Fr. John Zvijak

Fr. John Zvijak, 72, died 5:54 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 29, 2009, at Parkview Hospital, Fort Wayne, Ind., of complications following a stroke.



He was born on Jan. 3, 1937, in Whiting, Ind., to John and Helen (Poznanski) Zvijak. He entered the Society in 1950 and was ordained on June 8, 1963.

Fr. Zvijak began his priestly ministry as a teacher at Carroll High School in Dayton, Ohio, then for nine years at Brunnerdale Seminary, which was administered by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood near Canton, Ohio.

In 1981 he was named associate pastor of his home parish, St. John the Baptist Church in Whiting, and taught at nearby Calumet College of St. Joseph, which is sponsored by the Missionaries. He also was active in Marriage Encounter and as a retreat leader.

In 1996, he was named an associate pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Cleveland. He was appointed associate pastor of the Marion cluster of parishes in and around Maria Stein, Ohio, in 2002.

Fr. Zvijak returned to Whiting in 2003, due to health reasons, and then moved to St. Charles Center in Carthage, Ohio, in 2005, where he resided until his death.

Though he struggled with his health in later years, he never lost his sunny disposition and cheerful smile, said his friend and Brunnerdale classmate, Fr. Louis Schmit, C.P.P.S. "He had a generous spirit and a listening heart," Fr. Schmit said. "He had the ability to smile beginning at breakfast and that carried all throughout the day. If we were down, he always knew how to lift us up."

Fr. Zvijak never knew a stranger, said Fr. Schmit, who added that when they traveled together to any event it was wise to give Fr. Zvijak plenty of notice when it was time to say goodbye. "He had to say goodbye to everyone in the room," Fr. Schmit said. "You never wanted to start the car too early, because you'd waste a tank of gas waiting for him to say goodbye to all his friends."

Fr. Zvijak is survived by five sisters and their husbands: Dolores and Raymond Barnes, Crown Point, Ind.; Anna Mae and Ted Lampa, Stuart, Fla.; Margaret and Frank Yencich, Schaumburg, Ill.; Patricia and Larry Tomczak, Munster, Ind.; and Florence Jacobs, Auburn, Ind.; a brother-in-law, Joseph Paunicka, Ogden Dunes, Ind.; and numerous nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a sister, Judy Paunicka; a brother-in-law, Robert Jacobs; and an infant brother, Francis.

The Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated on Friday, Dec. 4, at 2 p.m. at St. Charles Center in Carthage, with Fr. Angelo Anthony, C.P.P.S., presiding. The homilist will be Fr. Louis Schmit. Burial will follow in

the Community cemetery.

Calling hours at St. Charles will be held Thursday, Dec. 3 from 3-5 and 7-9 p.m., with a prayer service at 7 p.m. Hogenkamp Funeral Home in St. Henry is handling the arrangements.