

## **Provot, Deacon Alvin F.**

Deacon Alvin F. Provot, 75, went to be with his Lord on Saturday, July 31, 2004, when he died peacefully at Oaklawn Hospital in Marshall, surrounded by his loving family. Beloved husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, he spent his life dedicated to living the principles of Christ, in order to share His message with others. Alvin was born in Detroit on July 21, 1929 to Alfred N. and Kathleen (Ridley) Provot. He graduated from Berkley High School in 1947 and attended the Chrysler Trade School. He married the love of his life, Marie Therese LeBlanc, on October 16, 1948, over 55 years ago. It was his loving marriage that inspired his involvement in the church, and his commitment to family and community. He was baptized into the Roman Catholic Church on his wedding day, which guided all his personal and spiritual accomplishments for the rest of his life. He worked for Liberty Special Tool Company in Royal Oak. In 1957 he became plant manager for their new plant in Bad Axe. He attended St. Paul's School of Religious Studies in the Diocese of Saginaw from 1971-1974. On June 8, 1975, he was ordained a Deacon in the Catholic Church at Sacred Heart Parish in Bad Axe. In 1975, he and a partner bought a metal fabricating plant in Bad Axe, which was destroyed by fire in 1977. In 1978, Al rebuilt the plant, and acted as owner and manager of the Martin Machinery Company. In 1981, Al and Therese moved to Madison Heights, where he began working at Special Drill and Reamers. He served as Deacon in the St. Vincent Ferrer Parish, and was very active in all areas of the church. In 1986, they moved to Coldwater in order to be closer to their children and grandchildren. They opened the "Provot Group Daycare Home", where Al was able to enrich the lives of many children with his unique sense of humor and fun. During this time, he also worked in human resources at Eagle Printing Company. He served as Deacon at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Coldwater, where his service included prison ministry; teaching confirmation, baptismal and pre-nuptial classes; providing counseling; officiating at funerals, weddings and baptisms; providing communion and prayer services for shut-ins and groups such as Pine Senior Respite Center; and making hospital visits. Al is a former Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus and is President of the 50-Plus Club at St. Charles. He was an active member of the Coldwater Kiwanis Club. Most dear to Al's heart was the Branch Area Food Pantry, which he founded and developed in 1987. In the fall of 2003, the Food Pantry was renamed the "Deacon Al Provot Food Distribution Center" in a ceremony conducted by the Honorable James A. Murray, Bishop of the Kalamazoo Diocese. He was honored with proclamations from Governor Jennifer Granholm, Representatives Bruce Caswell, and Mayor Robert Rumsey for dedication to this mission. He was a charter member of the Branch Interfaith Hospitality Network, which provides housing and support for families or individuals who are homeless and, in some cases, have no jobs. He has been a regular volunteer at the Relay for Life fundraisers, having battled lymphoma twice; and he was the keynote speaker for the Relay's kickoff breakfast in 2003. Al was an avid golfer and member of the Coldwater Country Club, where he played on two leagues. He recently was reintroduced to the game of pool by his good friend, Jack Lutz, and enjoyed the camaraderie at the Burnside Senior Center. Alvin is survived by 11 children, including three sons, Michael Provot and his wife, Barbara, of Canton, Patrick Provot and his wife, Donna, of Concord, Ohio, and Philip Provot and his wife, Theresa, of Coldwater; eight daughters, Marie Lippincott and her husband, Keith, of Port Byron, Illinois, Christine McMillin and her husband, Scott, of Sturgis, Helyn Castle and her husband, John, Kathleen Dunny and her husband, Keith, Susan Sobeske and her husband, Joseph, and Karen Sobeske and her husband, James, all of Coldwater, Marguerite Duke and her husband, Joe, of Bronson, and Judy Brombach and her husband, Robert, of Almont; 27 grandchildren; 7 great-grandchildren; three brothers, Albert Provot, of Grand Rapids, Alan Provot, of London, Ontario, Canada, and David Provot, of Portland, Maine; three sisters, Kathleen Madison, of New Orleans, Louisiana, Vivian Miller, of Chalfont, Pennsylvania, and Lee Morse, of Rapid River; and step-mother, Helen Glass, of Portland, Maine. He was preceded in death by his parents. A Mass of Christian burial celebrating the life of Deacon Al Provot will be at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, August 4, 2004, at St. Charles Borromeo Church with the Honorable Bishop

James A. Murray officiating. Burial will follow at Oak Grove Cemetery. Deacon Al will lie in repose from 2 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday and from 9:30 until 11 a.m. on Wednesday at St. Charles Borromeo Church. Rosary will be said at 7 p.m. on Tuesday. Memorials may be made to the Deacon Al Provot Food Distribution Center. Funeral arrangements are by the Kolcz Funeral Home of Bronson with assistance from the Dutcher Funeral Home of Coldwater. His obituary is also at [www.kolcz.com](http://www.kolcz.com) where private messages may be left for the family.