

Bell, Rev. Michael

Rev. Michael James Bell, 48, beloved, son, grandson, brother, uncle and friend, of Port Austin, formerly of Saginaw and Hemlock, passed away tragically, Thursday, May 24, 2001 in an automobile accident. Michael was born Aug. 9, 1952 in Saginaw, the firstborn child of James O. and Marilyn (Gohm) Bell. He graduated from Hemlock High School in 1970. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan in 1974 where he studied linguistics. He spoke seven languages fluently and studied others. He attended Catholic Theological College in Washington D.C. and was ordained in the priesthood on Sept. 23, 1979 at St. Mary Catholic Church in Hemlock. He served as a seminarian at St. Andrew Parish and at Holy Rosary Parish both in Saginaw. He served as deacon and associate pastor at St. Roch Parish in Caseville and St. Felix Parish in Pinnebog, and associate pastor at St. Helen Parish in Saginaw. He served as pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Argyle and St. Ignatius Parish in Freiburg, St. Michael Parish in Pinconning, Sacred Heart in Caro and was currently serving as pastor at St. Michael Parish in Port Austin. Fr. Mike loved spending time with his family. He was an avid computer user and lover of books and maintained an extensive library. He loved to travel, especially in Europe. He loved the arts, including the theatre, architecture and painting. Surviving are his father, James O. Bell; grandmother Catherine A. Bell; two sisters; one brother; their spouses; five nephews; Kathleen and David Bence, Dr. Patrick and Carol Bell and their son Morgan, Kristine and Steven Butterworth and their sons, Erik, Kyle, Dylan and Logan; two aunts and one uncle, Helen Gohm, Carl J. Gohm Jr. and his wife, Rosemary; many cousins, great aunts and great uncles. He was preceded in death by his mother, Marilyn E. Bell on Jan. 20, 2001; his nephew Korbin "Kory" Butterworth; his grandparents, Ralph W. Bell, Carl and Katherine Gohm; his uncles and aunt, Robert Gohm, Fred Gohm and his wife Ann Gohm. The Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Wednesday, May 30, 2001 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 1035 North River Road in Saginaw. Bishop Kenneth E. Untener will be principal celebrant. Committal service will be in the St. Andrew Cemetery in Saginaw. Visitation will be from 2 to 6 p.m. today at St. Michael Parish in Port Austin. He will then lie in state at Holy Spirit Parish in Saginaw from 6 to 9 p.m. Monday and from 2 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday. The Holy Spirit Council No. 8808 Knights of Columbus will pray the Rosary at 7:30 p.m. on Monday. A vigil service will be prayed at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday. Friends and family may then meet at the church from 10 a.m. Wednesday until the time of Mass. Memorials may be made to the Clergy Benefits Society (the priest retirement fund) or parish of their choice. Arrangements are by the W.L. Case and Co. Funeral Directors, Saginaw.