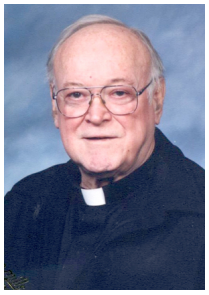

Nov. 5, 1931-Feb. 15, 2013

Father Louis S. Heitz, 81 of Cridersville died at 9:32 a.m. on Friday at St. Rita's Medical Center surrounded by loving family.

Born Nov. 5, 1931, in Fort Jennings, he was the son of Otto and Rose (Stauterman) Heitz, who preceded him in death.

He is survived by three sisters Mary (Virgil) German, Joan (George) Ross and Betty Grace; a sister in-law, Dorothy Heitz; and 21 nieces and nephews, 47 great nieces and nephews and 28 great, great nieces and nephews.

He was also preceded in death by one sister, Catherine Heitz; three brothers, Robert, Frank and Ralph Heitz; and one brother in-law, Oris Grace.

Father Heitz attended Minor Seminary at St. Meinrads in Meinrad, Ind., and Major Seminary at Immaculate Conception in Conception, Mo. Father was ordained on April 6, 1957, in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Conception, Missouri.

Father Heitz had been a resident of Otterbein Independent Living in Cridersville for the past 10 years, where he continued his priestly ministry saying Mass for residents who were fondly known as his parishioners. Father also continued to administer the Sacraments of the Catholic Church. During this time, niece Jean (Steve) Hull and nephew David (Debbie) Heitz became an integral part of his daily life allowing Father to continue his service to the Church.

The following were Father Heitz's Church appointments: April 24, 1957, assistant pastor at St. Thomas Aquinas in Lafayette, Ind.; June 12, 1957, assistant pastor at Saint Ann, in Lafayette; May 28, 1963, director of Catholic Charities; July 15, 1966, administrator at St. Joseph in Delphi, Ind.; Sept. 4, 1974, pastor at St Joseph in Elwood, Ind.; Aug. 1, 1981, pastor at St. Lawrence in Muncie, Ind.: and July 1, 1996, pastor at St. Joseph in Winchester, Ind..

On Wednesday, his body will lie in state at his home parish, St. John's Evangelist Church in Delphos beginning at 9 a.m. Immediately following is a Mass of Christian Burial scheduled to begin at 10:30 a.m. with the Most Reverend Bishop William Higi, of Lafayette, Indiana, officiating and Father Michael McKinley of St. Joseph, Winchester, Indiana as homilist. Burial will follow in Resurrection Cemetery in Delphos.

Friends may call from 2 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at Harter and Schier Funeral Home, where a rosary will begin 7:30 p.m.

Memorial contributions will be used to say Masses for Father Louis.