



Knights of Columbus *Iowa State Council*

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Father Richard E. Gubbels
August 18, 1937 - July 13, 2005

Father Gubbels was born in Westphalia, Iowa on August 18, 1937. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Des Moines on June 6, 1965 and celebrated his first Mass on June 7, 1965. His first assignment was as Assistant Pastor of St. Anthony's Parish in Des Moines from 1965 to 1969. Next, he directed the Hospital Chaplaincy Program and was Chaplain of the Catholic Council for Social Concern from 1969 to 1972. Later, he was assigned Pastor of Queen of Apostles Parish in Council Bluffs and Holy Trinity Parish in Des Moines before being assigned to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart Parish in Ankeny in 1986.

Best known for his down-to-earth style and as a "builder", Father Gubbels was involved in both renovation and new construction projects in several parishes that he served. At OLIH, he led the parish through two major events – the 25th Anniversary of the church being built and overseeing the fundraising and building of the current worship space.

But Father Gubbels was also a "builder" of another sort – a pastor deeply committed to building the strength of the faith community in each person. The theme for the capital campaign supporting the construction of the new OLIH worship space seemed to capture his priority in that regard: "Family of Faith: Today's Heritage, Tomorrow's Hope". Father Gubbels also sought to create small communities within the larger whole. This influence is seen in the arrangement of the OLIH worship space around the table of the Lord, facing each other as family and friends. Further, in a letter to the Bishop in which he was making a final report regarding the new OLIH worship space, he reported that he was beginning a "new building project", the RENEW program, more evidence that strengthening the faith of the parish community was important to him.

"Gubes" was very well known for his invitation to others to become involved. He was always tapping someone on the shoulder saying "I think you would be good at this" or "How about you head up this event" or "It would be great for you to join this group". He was a very hard man to say "no" to.

Father Gubbels retired in February 2005 before passing away on July 13, 2005. He was a Third Degree Knight of Columbus.

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