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Rev. Michael A. Spegele, 83, retired Catholic priest,

Mar 18, 1998

KEUTERVILLE -- The Rev. Michael Alois Spegele, 83, a retired Catholic priest, died at his home here Monday from causes related to age.

He was born May 29, 1915, to Alois and Margarethe Goetz Spegele in Augsburg, Germany.

His father emigrated to the United States in 1926 and he and his mother came two years later. Economic conditions were difficult at that time and his father feared the prospect of Hitler and the Nazis coming to power.

He did his seminary training at St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer, Ind., and St. Charles Seminary in Carthegena, Ohio.

He was ordained to the priesthood as a member of the Congregation of the Most Precious Blood on June 14, 1941.

He spend his early years of ministry doing pastoral work in North Dakota, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin and Missouri. It was while he was serving at a parish in Grassy Butte, N.D., that he met Fr. Sylvester Treinen, who later became his first bishop in Idaho.

He was pastor of parishes in Arco, Soda Springs and Aberdeen, Idaho, before being assigned to St. Theresa's parish in Orofino in 1978.

He served St. Theresa's and Our Lady of the Woodland Mission in Pierce for 14 years until his retirement in 1992.

He also served as chaplain for Catholics at State Hospital North and the Idaho Correctional Institution at Orofino.

After his retirement he resided in Keuterville in the Holy Cross Church rectory. He was called upon extensively to help out in parishes throughout Idaho and Oregon after his retirement.

He is survived by a brother, Ernest Spegele of Dayton, Ohio.

A vigil service will be held at 7:30 tonight at St. Mary's Catholic Church at Cottonwood with funeral Mass to be celebrated at 10 a.m. Thursday, with Bishop Tod D. Brown as celebrant.

There will also be a vigil service and rosary at 6 tonight at St. Theresa's Church at Orofino.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated there at 4 p.m. with the Rev. George King as celebrant. Burial will follow at the Orofino Cemetery.

Uhlorn Funeral Home of Cottonwood is in charge of arrangements.