

# Fr. Howard Melzer, SCJ

## 1930-2009

A Chicago native, Fr. Howard professed his first vows in 1950 and was ordained in 1958.

He studied journalism and speech at Marquette University in preparation for a five-year stint as editor of *Reign Magazine*.

Fr. Howard also taught homiletics at Sacred Heart School of Theology and was director of the brothers' novitiate before entering pastoral ministry.

From 1968-1971 he was pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Dupree, S.D. "I remember when Fr.

Howard came to our parish," said

Judy Lemke, a parishioner from Dupree. "Vatican II changes were just being implemented when he came and he helped us along, introducing things like handshakes at the sign of peace and taking up the gifts at offertory. He had a way of bringing people into these changes without upsetting them."

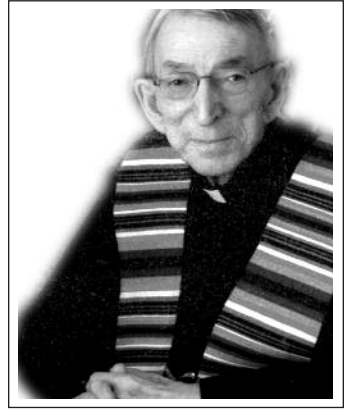
After Sacred Heart in Dupree, Fr. Howard moved to another Sacred Heart Parish, this time in Walls, Miss. He was there for three years before becoming pastor of St. Cecilia's Parish in San Antonio, and later, St. Matthew's Parish in Corona, Calif. From 1980-1985 he was pastor of St. Joseph Church in Brazoria, Texas.

In 1985, Fr. Howard headed back to Wisconsin where he served at Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish (now, St. Martin of Tours) in Franklin, Wis., until 1988. Always open to filling in where needed, he returned to South Dakota in 1988 to be pastor of St. James Parish in Chamberlain.

In 1995 he was back in Wisconsin, helping at the province vocation office until 1997, when he returned to Texas to serve at Christ the Redeemer Parish in Houston and later, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, also in Houston.

He had also been active with the Knights of Columbus. When asked about hobbies, he listed bowling, fishing and poker.

After suffering a stroke, Fr. Howard retired in Milwaukee in 2002. He was a member of the Villa Maria Community.



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