In Loving Memory

Father Peter James Fransco

January 3, 1929 - October 15, 2026

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL
Tuesday, October 27, 2026
10:00 AM
Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Ruthven, Iowa

CELEBRANT
Most Rev. John Keehner
Bishop of the Sioux City Diocese

PRINCIPAL CONCELEBRANTS
Father Tim Johnson - *Homilist*
Father Michael Erpelding
Father John Thomas
Father Gary Snyder
Other priests of the diocese

DEACONS
John Rudd
Darwin Messerly
Other deacons of the diocese

PRIEST CANTOR
Father David Hemann

ORGANIST
Julie Bargman

SOLOIST
Deanne Banwart

CASKETBEARERS
Father Peter's Brother Priests

INTERMENT
Calvary Cemetery
Ruthven, Iowa

The Servant of the Lord

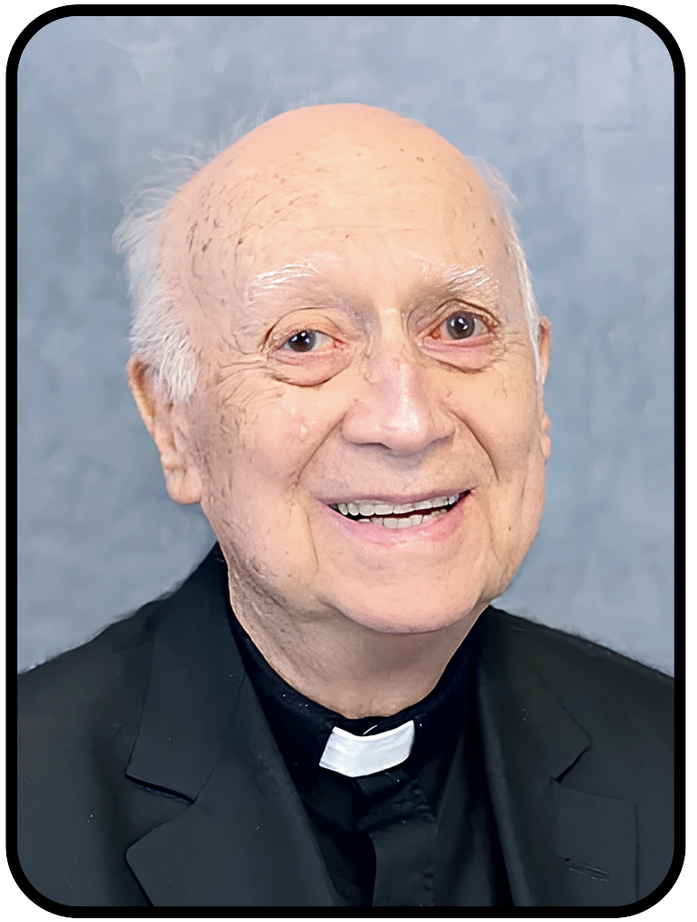
He answered when the Lord called him,
And followed where He led,
He shared the Word, he offered hope,
And blessed the living and the dead.

He stood beside us in our joy,
He knelt with us in prayer,
He reminded us of God's great love
And showed us how to care.

The hands that blessed so many souls
Now rest in peaceful sleep,
While all the seeds of faith he sowed
Are ours to love and keep.

May Christ, the Good and gracious Shepherd,
Welcome him into His care,
And grant him everlasting peace
In Heaven, beyond compare.

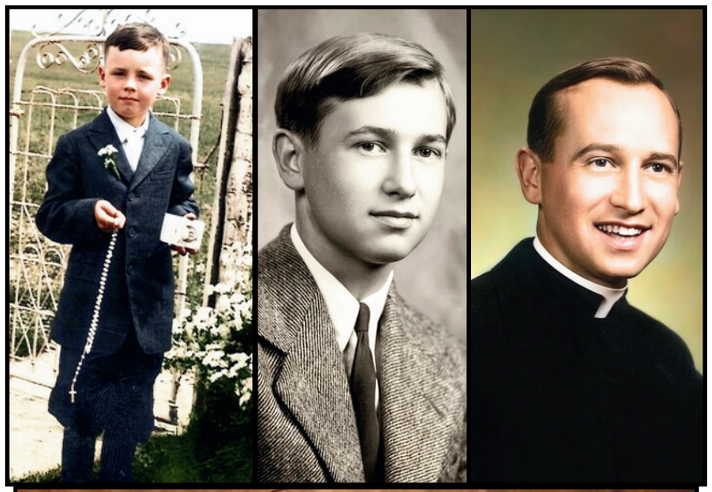
Geelan
FUNERAL HOME



Honoring the Life of

Rev. Peter Fransco

January 3, 1929 - October 15, 2026







Peter J. Fransco, son of Peter and Mary (Conlan) Fransco, was born January 3, 1929 in Tyler, Minnesota. In 1930, his family moved to Ruthven, Iowa, where his father continued his medical practice. As a young man he enjoyed spending time on Lost Island Lake, being with friends, and he also played the clarinet in the band.

He received his education from Ruthven and graduated from Ruthven High School in 1946. Following high school, Peter enrolled at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, and graduated in 1951. During his time in undergrad, Peter felt he had a religious vocation, so he decided to begin studies with the Franciscan Order in California. However, after a year of study at the Franciscan Minor Seminary in Santa Barbara, he felt his calling was to the diocesan priesthood.

Having been accepted by Bishop Joseph Mueller of the Sioux City Diocese for studying for the diocesan priesthood, he enrolled for further education at St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. Peter then began theological studies at St. Bernard's Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. On May 31, 1958, Peter J. Fransco was ordained into the Catholic priesthood by Most Revered Bishop Mueller.

Father Peter served in the following parishes throughout the Sioux City Diocese:

Assistant Pastor – Blessed Sacrament Parish – Sioux City 1958-1960
Assistant Pastor – St. Lawrence Parish – Carroll 1960-1965
Faculty – Bishop Garrigan High School – Algona 1965-1966
Pastor – St. Mary Parish – Dow City (attending Buck Grove) 1966-1968
Pastor – St. Brigid Parish – Grand Junction (attending Paton) 1968-1976
Pastor – Sacred Heart Parish – Laurens 1976-1982
Pastor – St. Mary Parish – Willey 1982-1984
Pastor – St. Mary Parish – Pomeroy (attending Palmer) 1984-1991
Pastor – St. Mary Parish - Mallard 1991-1999
Retired – 1999

Although he lived a simple life as a humble man, Peter touched many lives throughout his 41 years of priestly ministry. Through his faithful service to the Church and the many parishes he served, he shared his faith and brought comfort and guidance to others. His dedication to the priesthood leaves a lasting legacy in the communities he served.

Peter passed away peacefully on Thursday, October 15, 2026, at the Ruthven Community Care Center, at the age of 97. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Phillip in infancy. He is survived by his sister, Ellen Jelinek; niece, Christine Goodstein; several cousins across the country; his brother priests; as well as other friends and relatives.