

Monsignor Rex Eugene Nicholl, senior priest of the Diocese of Amarillo, passed away on February 11, 2026, in Amarillo, Texas. He was 89 years old.

Born on December 3, 1936, in Paris, Texas, Rex was the son of Worth Howard Nicholl and Phyllis McDade Nicholl. He was the eldest of four children; he is survived by his brothers Larry and Clark, his sister Sandy, and his nieces and nephews Debye, Rebecca, Colette, Michael, Rachel, Renee, Roxanne, and Andrew.

Rex was beloved by many and was a devoted son, brother, uncle, and pastor. A true Renaissance man, he was a talented musician, a passionate sports fan, an avid reader, and a lifelong learner. He especially enjoyed cheering on the Spurs with his brother Clark and engaging in friendly debates with his brother Larry.

Being a priest was his calling. It was his heart and soul. Throughout his nearly 59 years of service, he touched countless lives, always radiating humility, compassion, and gentle kindness. He welcomed everyone with open arms, an open heart, and a warm smile, and he always sought to help those in need.

Rex grew up in Amarillo, graduated from Price College (1955), attended St. Edward's University and Marquette University (1959, journalism), served two years in the United States Army (Fort Richie, Maryland, 1959-1961), and then attended Conception Seminary (Conception, Missouri).

Ordained on May 19, 1967, Monsignor Rex served the communities of the Texas Panhandle throughout his life, first as a substitute priest and parochial vicar, and then as pastor in five parishes: Sacred Heart Church, Plainview, and its mission, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church (1977-1982); Holy Spirit Church, Tulia, and its missions; St. Paul the Apostle Church, Kress; and Our Lady of Loreto Church, Silvertown (1982-1991); Immaculate Conception Church, Perryton; and St. Peter Church, Booker (1991-2000); Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Amarillo (2000-2009); and St. Martin de Porres Church, Amarillo (2009-2026). On August 24, 1999, Father Nicholl was named Prelate of Honor, with the title of Monsignor.

Monsignor Rex also taught at St. Lawrence School and supported many service organizations, including the Red River Valley Mission Team, the Ussery-Roan Texas State Veterans Home, Thomas Creek Veterans Hospital, the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Catholic Charities of the Texas Panhandle, and the Knights of Columbus.

All who knew Monsignor Rex will miss him. We will always be grateful for the love he shared with us. Upon committing himself to the priesthood, he swore, "I am a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek" (Psalm 110:4). Monsignor Rex gave himself body and soul to the God he loved. May his soul rejoice in the glory of God's light.

In Loving Memory Of



MSGR REX EUGENE NICHOLL
December 3, 1936 February 11, 2026