Rev. Ivor Koch
Nov. 5, 1930 - Oct. 18, 2017
Rev. Ivor D. Koch, 86, of Wichita Falls, died Oct. 18. A Prayer ser-
vice was held Oct. 31, at Holland-Coble Funeral Home, What Cheer. Burial was in Highland Cemetery, What Cheer.
Ivor was born Nov. 5, 1930 in What Cheer to Fred and Elsie Ma-
tie (Tancor) Koch. He was gradu-
ated from What Cheer Independent
School in 1948 as Valedictorian, and
later attended Iowa Wesleyan
University and Iowa State Uni-
versity. After an 18 month hospital
stay for tuberculosis prompted his
going back to What Cheer, Iowa
where he joined his father in the
floral and greenhouse business,
Ivor established a flower shop and
began designing arrangements.
During those years, he designed
floral arrangements state wide as
well as for many other states. Ivor
held office in the Iowa State Florist
Association having won several
awards for his floral designs. He
served as a Grand Knight on the
Windhoest Council #1457 in Iowa
and was Mayor of What Cheer,
after which he ran for State Rep-
resentative in his congressional
district.
After years in the floral business,
Ivor decided he had a vocation. He
attended Sacred Heart School of
Theology in Hales Corner, Wiscon-
sin and was ordained to the priest-
hood on June 14, 1986 at Sacred
Heart Catholic Church in Wichita
Falls. He was appointed Parochial
Vicar at Most Blessed Church in
Arlington, St. Michaels in Bedford,
and Our Mother of Mercy parish in
Hillsboro. He then was appointed
Parochial Vicar for the parishes of
St. Mary’s in Henrietta, St. Joseph
in Nocona, St. Jerome’s in Bowie,
and St. Williams in Montague. In
1990, he was appointed pastor at
Sacred Heart Catholic Church in
Wichita Falls where he remained
for 29 years. While at Sacred Heart
he helped plan the remodeling of
the church, helped establish the
Mom’s group for the Mother’s in
the parish, and The Jubilee Club
for the Senior Citizens of the par-
ish. Throughout the years, Father
Koch served as police chaplain for
the Wichita Falls police depart-
ment, chaplain of the prison min-
istry, and served as the chaplain
of the 4th Degree Knights of Co-
lumbus Assembly #1108. He was
active in the Council of Catholic
Worthy where he was Moderator
for 20 years. He helped establish
the Knights of Columbus Coun-
cil 10998 25 years ago, and was a
member of the Equestrian Aides of
the Holy Sepulcher. Father Koch
loved his horses and flowers.
He is survived by his brother-in-
law, Paul Bates; his nephews, Jim
Bates and wife Debbie, and Duane
Bates and wife Kathy; his great-
niece, Andrea Fowler and husband
Brad; great-nephew, Greg Bates