

H-R October 23, 1986

Rev. Gregori dies in Arizona



Joseph Gregori

The Rev. Canon Joseph Gregori, 76, died Oct. 19 in Payson, Ariz., after an extended illness. "Father Joe" had served Episcopal churches in Newton and Grinnell from 1949 to 1957.

Gregori was born May 18, 1910, in Valencia, Spain, attending the Schools of Philosophy and Theology of Valencia Pontifical University. He completed his theological studies in California, and was ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood in 1933. He became a U.S. citizen in 1938.

Prior to settling in Iowa, Gregori was received into the Episcopal Church in Arizona. There he was the director of four missions and a large settlement house ministering to

the Hispanic community in the slums of Phoenix.

Father Gregori served the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa in four churches from 1949 to 1982. He was vicar of St. Stephen's Church in Newton and was also an instructor in modern languages and chaplain to Episcopal students at Grinnell College. After leaving his ministry in Newton and Grinnell in 1957, Gregori became rector of St. Thomas Church in Sioux City, retiring to Grace Church in Boone, in 1976. In 1982 he accepted a call to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Payson, Ariz., a position he held at the time of his death.

Gregori was active in community affairs throughout his Iowa ministry. His active work included Rotary International, the Council of Churches, the Ministerial Association in various cities, the United Way, the Boy Scouts of America, Sioux City Human Rights and Job Discrimination Commission and the Development and Housing Commission. He was 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason, and was chaplain to the Sioux City Abu Bekr Shrine Temple from 1961 to 1976. In 1968 he received the Outstanding Foreign-Born Citizen Award from the Sioux City Chapter of Sertoma, International.

Survivors include his wife of 48 years, Virginia; three sons, Joseph Anthony of Estherville, Reyes Edward of Johnstown, Pa., and Stuart David of Shiprock, N.M.; three

daughters, Gloria Potter of Litchfield Park, Ariz., presently residing in Taif, Saudi Arabia, Virginia Ostendorf of Denver, Colo., and Mary Hanson of Runnells; and ten grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Friday at 11 a.m. at All Saints Episcopal Church, 6300 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, Ariz. The family suggests memorial contributions be made to the American Cancer Society.