

PCCR Regina Ellen DeMeulenaere, 79 Apr 15, 2009

Funeral services for Regina Ellen Keating DeMeulenaere will be held Thursday, April 16, 2009, at 10 a.m., at St. Bridget's Catholic Church in Victor. The funeral mass will be concelebrated by St. Bridget's pastor, the Rev. Brian Shepley, the Rev. Philip Ryan, and her nephew, the Rev. Michael Keating. Visitation is scheduled for Wednesday, at Smith Funeral Home in Victor, from noon to 8 p.m., including a rosary at 4 p.m., and a Scripture Service at 7 p.m. Burial will be in the Calvary Cemetery in Victor.



Regina died Monday, April 13, at her home surrounded by her family, following a courageous and hard-fought battle with pancreatic cancer.

She was born Oct. 31, 1929, on the family farm at Temple Hill in rural Onslow, the daughter of Bernard J. Keating and Margaret A. Fagan Keating. She received her Catholic education at St. Peter's School at Temple Hill and Sacred Heart in Monticello. Following her high school graduation, she enrolled at Mercy School of Nursing in Cedar Rapids, where she received her degree as a registered nurse. During her nursing career, she was employed by St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, the Victor Medical Clinic, and the University of Iowa DeGowin Blood Center in Iowa City.

On Aug. 6, 1951, she married Robert Charles DeMeulenaere of Victor, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Temple Hill. Regina had many roles in life, but none brought her more joy than those of wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was a faith-filled Irish Catholic mother who built a framework of love, strength, and caring that continually supported her family of four children, seven grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. A seventh great-grandchild is expected this fall.

In addition to her family and her career, she was actively involved in numerous church and volunteer activities throughout her life. She was a member of St. Bridget's Catholic Church, Altar and Rosary Society, American Legion Auxiliary, volunteered with the SHIP program in Marengo, the Senior Dining program in Victor, and the Democratic party. She was also a highly competitive golfer, enjoyed travel, actively followed her family's sports and musical activities, loved her flower gardens and bird-watching, and spent time each week in the company of numerous friends over a game of bridge, dominos, coffee or lunch.

Survivors include her husband of 58 years, Bob DeMeulenaere of Victor; her children, Mary Jo (Jodi) DeMeulenaere of Iowa City, Pat and Phil Bott of Victor, Susan and Larry Berns of Cedar Rapids, and Paul DeMeulenaere of Iowa City; her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Zach, Cassie, Jaisel and Cooper Bott of Williamsburg, Stephanie, Keith, Katie, Robbie, and Rubianne Regina Allison of Cedar Rapids, Erin, Grant and Colin Finch of Coralville, Tom and Katy DeMeulenaere, Megan DeMeulenaere, Sean Roberts, and Laura Roberts, all of Iowa City; a sister, Joan Morphy of Omaha, Neb.; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives; as well as a wide circle of friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Louis, Orland, and the Rev. Thomas Keating; and one sister, Rosemary.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be sent to the Regina DeMeulenaere Memorial Fund, Box 278, Victor, IA 52347, which will be donated to Regina's favorite charities.