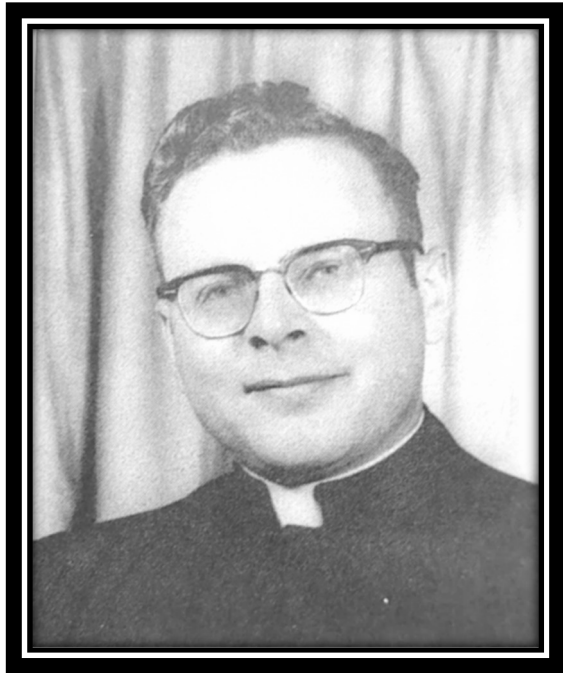




**REVEREND  
WILBERT J. IFFERT**



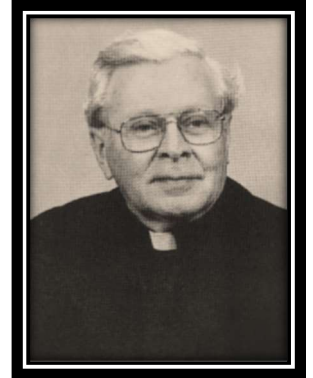
**December 20, 1923 – December 7, 2012**

**Ordained June 3, 1952**

**FATHER WILBERT JOHN “BERT” IFFERT**

Father Iffert was born December 20, 1923, in Wendelin, Illinois the son of William and Barbara Catherine (Kuhl) Iffert. He grew up in Wendelin and Belleville with his brother Florian.

After high school, Father Iffert entered the Society of Mary (1941), completed a B.A. in Education at the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio, and taught high school in San Antonio, Texas, and St. Louis, Missouri. He completed seminary studies at the St. Louis Preparatory Seminary and St. Paul Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota.



Rev. Wilbert J. Iffert was ordained into the Holy Priesthood on June 3, 1952, by Most Rev. Albert R. Zuroweste, Bishop of Belleville. Following his ordination, Father Iffert celebrated his first Solemn Mass on June 5, 1952, at Holy Cross Church in Wendelin.

Father Iffert served as a Diocesan Priest for the Diocese of Belleville. He taught at Mater Dei High School in Breese and served in several parishes including Sacred Heart, DuQuoin; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Renault; St. Pius V., Walsh; St. Edward, Fairfield; St. Sebastian, Mt. Carmel; St. Mary, Harrisburg; St. Francis de Sales, Stonefort; and St. Joseph, Equality.

Father Iffert retired in January 1990 and moved to Mt. Vernon where he assisted at St. Mary Parish and St. Mary's/Good Samaritan Hospital. During those 23 years in Mt. Vernon, he offered Mass at more than a dozen parishes and assisted the pastor of St. Mary's Catholic Church faithfully. Father Iffert also helped found several Alcoholics Anonymous Chapters throughout Southern Illinois and ministered to prisoners in local correction facilities.

Known to many as “Father Bert” he was known to hear Confessions and grant absolution in McDonald's or Hardees and visited every parent and child at the local Denny's Restaurant. Father Iffert considered everyone his “sweetheart” and reminded each one, “God loves you.”

Father Iffert passed away on December 7, 2012, at Mt. Vernon Countryside Manor in Mt. Vernon, Illinois. The funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Mary Catholic Church in Mt. Vernon with burial in the Holy Cross Cemetery in Wendelin, Illinois.