

Fr. Cislo was ‘a happy priest’

DETROIT — Fr. Robert Cislo was “a happy priest,” said his cousin, Fr. Frederick Misiolek, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Newport.

Fr. Cislo died May 11. He was 65.

Just like Fr. Misiolek, Fr. Cislo would have celebrated his 40th anniversary to the priesthood this year.

“He had a good sense of humor,” Fr. Misiolek said. “He liked to tell a few jokes in church.”

Because of Fr. Cislo’s background training and certification in alcoholism counseling, “he had a lot of compassion with people and with their addictions. He had gone out of his way.”

“We always got together at family parties,” Fr. Misiolek said, and it was never a problem to have either one do a funeral for a family member. “He took care of one side (of the family) and I took care of the other.”

His death was a shock to him, although Fr. Cislo had heart problems in the past. “I didn’t expect that. We had (an upcoming) class reunion for our 40th and he was really looking forward to it.”

Fr. Misiolek added that Fr. Cislo loved to golf, and that “the first thing he probably asked St. Peter at the gate was for a golf cart,” he said and laughed. “We had a lot of happy times.”

Born in Detroit, he was ordained March 13, 1965, for the Conventual Franciscans. He received an Alcoholism Counseling Certification in 1983 from Grant Hospital, Chicago.

He was incardinated as a diocesan priest April 14, 1997.

He served as pastor at Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish in Detroit (1987-1994); and as associate pastor at the parishes of St. Frances Cabrini Parish, Allen Park, (1994-1996); and St. John Neumann, Canton Township (1996-1997). Since 1997, Fr. Cislo had been pastor at St. Pascal Baylon Parish, Taylor.

He is survived by cousins.

A funeral Mass was celebrated May 16 at St. Paschal Baylon Church. Burial was in St. Hedwig Cemetery, Dearborn Heights.

— *Michelle Samartino*