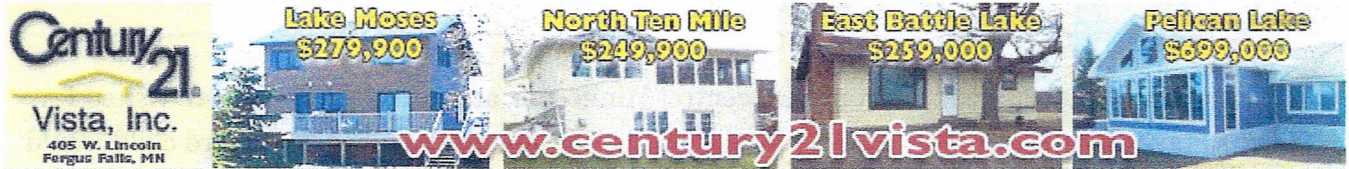


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Priest seen as link to God

By [Tom Hintgen \(Contact\)](#) | The Daily Journal

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The Rev. Darin Didier, a Catholic priest who graduated from Alexandria High School in 1991, helped people in need while he was alive. Afflicted with non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, he died three weeks before his 33rd birthday.

People believe that Father Didier, even in death, can help them by being an intercession to God. Since the priest's passing in 2005, people from several states have visited his gravesite at St. Mary's Cemetery, along County Road 45 on the west side of Alexandria.

His parents, Len and Bonnie Didier, emphasize it's not their son who is making people feel better physically or emotionally.

"Darin is just a link," his father told me on April 22. "I see it as networking with God."

During his life, the Rev. Didier changed people's lives for the better. He reached out to those with drug and alcohol problems. The Alexandria native and outstanding runner, who served as a priest in Fargo after his ordination, prevented two people from committing suicide. He helped other people through tough times in their lives.

He took seminary classes at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Maryland and was ordained a priest in Fargo on June 4, 2005. Fr. Didier was assigned to Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Fargo.

Among family and friends who attended the ordination was a couple from the East Coast who were close friends of the new priest. For whatever reason, they were unable to start a family. Fr. Didier gave the woman a special blessing at the ordination. The couple's first child was born 10 months later.

Another attendee at the ordination said she felt the presence of the Blessed Virgin Mary when Fr. Didier took part in a prayer honoring the mother of Jesus. Fr. Didier died three months after his

ordination, at 3:33 in the afternoon. People obviously reference the number three to the Holy Trinity.

In the summer of 2006, a couple from west central Minnesota, at the urging of a parent, visited Fr. Didier's gravesite at St. Mary's Cemetery in Alexandria. The couple, knowing their third child would be born with spina bifida, prayed and asked Fr. Didier to in turn ask God to help them.

Their daughter, although born with spina bifida, went home from the hospital just a week after she was born. Her doctors were later amazed when seeing the girl advance at a much higher level than they had predicted. The parents were thankful they asked Fr. Didier to intercede to God on their behalf.

The word spread.

Fr. Darin's parents started seeing more than the usual number of cars with people visiting the cemetery where their son has his final resting place. They quickly learned that people were coming to ask their son to intercede, to God, on their behalf for healing.

Visitors left tokens and notes at the gravesite. To accommodate people, Darin's parents installed a pillar with a removable cover next to Darin's grave. In the pillar is a guestbook. People write down their prayer requests.

On April 22 one person left a note asking Fr. Darin to intercede about pain prior to hip surgery. Another asked for emotional and spiritual healing. A third person had encountered marriage tribulations.

People with various ailments and diseases visit the gravesite. After returning home, many of them say it's the best they've felt for a long time. A friend of Fr. Didier, diagnosed with thyroid cancer, prayed at his friend's gravesite. His health kept improving and the cancer is now under control.

Darin's parents are appreciative of people who contact them about how their son made a difference and changed lives for the better. Len and Bonnie Didier reiterate that their son is no miracle worker. He's a link, said his father, "networking with God."

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