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Rev. Pierre Amen

May 2, 2006

The Rev. Pierre Amen, OFM, 70, a Franciscan missionary to Brazil for the past 47 years, died early Friday (April 28, 2006) in the Convento in Santarem, Para, Brazil. He was laid to rest the following day after an all-night vigil and the Mass of Resurrection in Blessed Sacrament Church at 7 a.m. on Saturday, April 29. Father Pierre was born Aug. 21, 1935, in Quincy, a son of the late Kenneth Francis Amen and Mary Louise Awerkamp Amen and stepson of Marjorie Freiburg Amen. He attended St. Francis School in Quincy, St. Joseph's Seminary in Westmont and Our Lady of Angels Seminary in Cleveland. He volunteered for missionary work and was sent to Brazil for two years before ordination in order to learn the Portuguese language and to receive two more years of theology at the German Franciscan Province in Petropolis. He was ordained on Dec. 21, 1962, in St. Francis Catholic Church in Quincy and celebrated his first Mass in St. Peter Catholic Church in Quincy on Dec. 30. After returning to Brazil, he spent three years teaching at a new Franciscan Seminary in Santarem. He was then assigned to the new Transamazon Highway, then to Itaituba, to Belem, where he spent 20 years and finally to Santarem for the last years of his ministry. He pastored St. Sebastian Church and was responsible for the construction of the new Blessed Sacrament Church which he also pastored and where he lay in state. He was guardian of Convento Sao Francisco and was both counselor and economist for the custody and pastor and friend to thousands of his Brazilian family. He is survived by his stepmother, Marjorie Amen; two sisters, Mary Ann Middendorf (Richard) of Quincy and Martha Daly (Richard) of Florissant, Mo.; two brothers, Mark Amen of Tampa, Fla., and Ralph Amen of

Peoria; a nephew, Max Middendorf (Brenda) of Pittsfield; a niece, Kate Hall (Tim) of Wood River; and three great-nephews. Deceased family members include his parents; brother, Lawrence Kenneth, who died in infancy; two brothers-in-law, Richard Middendorf and Richard Daly; and his grandparents, Ralph and Julia Amen and Arthur and Mary Awerkamp. A memorial concelebrated Mass will be at 2 p.m. Saturday in St. Peter Catholic Church. Visitation will be at 1 p.m. Saturday in the church. Memorials for the Rev. Amen may be given to the Franciscan Missionary Union in his name. The Duker and Haugh Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.