

# Rev. James Matthew Crunican

## 44<sup>th</sup> State Chaplain of Oregon 1993-94



James Matthew Crunican was born December 27, 1934 at his grandmother's home in Roy, OR to Justin and Helen Herb Crunican.

He graduated from Forest Grove High School Class of 1953. In 1954 he moved with his parents to Forest Grove, OR. James entered Mt. Angel Seminary in 1954 and he graduated in 1959 with a BA in Philosophy and received his theology studies at St Thomas Seminary, Kenmore WA.

He was ordained for service in the Archdiocese of Portland by Archbishop Edward Howard in 1963. After ordination and a summer assignment at St. John Fisher Parish, Portland, he was assigned as associate pastor at St. Alice Parish, Springfield, where he served from 1963 to 1970. In 1970 he spent a year as associate pastor of St. Helen Parish in Junction City. In 1971, he was assigned as associate pastor at St. Matthew Parish, Hillsboro, where he served until 1977. In February of 1977, he was appointed pastor of St. Frederic Parish, St. Helens, OR, and then in 1987 he was appointed pastor of both Good Shepherd Parish, Sheridan, and St. Michael's Parish, Grand Ronde.

In 1981 Rev Crunican started to take pep pills to keep his energy up. The habit seemed harmless at the time but quickly ravaged him. He spent two weeks in a hospital to break the dependence.

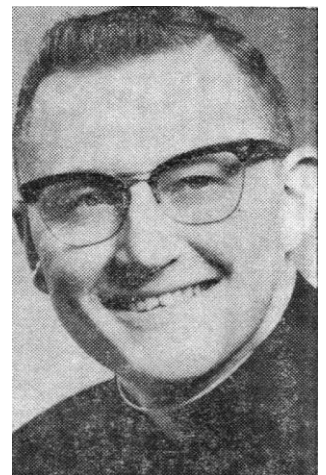
Rev. Crunican was the Oregon Knights of Columbus State Chaplain 1993–94.

In 1996 Rev. Crunican was involved in an automobile crash near the St Johns Bridge, Rev. Crunican, who suffered only sore muscles after tangling with a tractor trailer, was on his way home to Grand Ronde after attending a funeral in St. Helens.

Rev. Crunican retired for medical reasons in 1998.

Rev. James Matthew Crunican died on November 4, 2007 in Portland, OR.

He is buried at the Visitation Cemetery, Verboort, WA.





*"There's so much more beauty in being filled with life and maybe being crushed once in a while, than to have no life, to be dead." Rev. James Crunican, March 1991, Grand Ronde, OR*