

Bishop Anthony Michael Milone passed away in Omaha, NE on Thursday, May 17, 2018 surrounded by his family. Born September 24, 1932 to Joseph and Louise Milone in Omaha, Nebraska Anthony was the son of Sicilian immigrants and one of nine children who grew up in Omaha's "Little Italy" neighborhood.

Bishop Anthony attended Conception College in Missouri, a school for men considering the Seminary. Four years later, he was accepted as a student at Gregorian University in Rome where he was ordained a priest in 1957.

Father Milone was appointed Auxiliary Bishop in Omaha in 1981, and on January 6, 1982 family, friends, clergy and parishioners were with him in Rome when Pope John Paul II ordained him a Bishop in the Basilica of St. Peter in Vatican City.

In 1988, Bishop Milone was installed as the sixth bishop of the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, Montana. Bishop Milone led the Great Falls-Billings diocese during a time of transition. He worked with the people of the diocese and led the implementation of a strategic planning process actively involving the laity, titled "One Vine ... Many Branches." It summarized the state of the diocese and addressed challenges such as a shortage of priests and viability of parishes. It also made recommendations for improvements to youth ministry, vocations promotion, education, religious formation and evangelization. He also brought the Poor Clare Sisters to Montana and helped them found their Monastery in Great Falls.

He retired in 2007 returning to Omaha to be near family where he continued his work as a Shepherd of the church serving at St. Bernadette's Catholic Church prior to moving to St. John Vianney Residence. In his spare time, he enjoyed playing golf, fly-fishing, watching his beloved New York Yankees and Nebraska Football. He loved being an uncle, teaching his nieces and nephews about their Sicilian heritage, to laugh often, and to always love one another.

Bishop Milone was a simple man who loved spending time with his family teaching them to care for others and the power of prayer. He lived his life modeling humility, demonstrating kindness, and sharing his love for all. When Pope John Paul II ordained him Bishop in Rome, the Pontiff told him "to be a light to the world." Bishop Milone believed this meant he was to help people to recognize their dignity.

He was preceded in death by his parents Joseph and Louise Milone; sisters Lena, Giuseppina, Giovannina Milone; Nancy Davis; and Adeline Moran; brothers Carl and Sam; niece Lyssa Carnazzo; great nephew Anthony Cappellano . He is survived by his brother Jesse (Jeri) Milone, sister-in-law Willa Milone and many nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held Thursday, May 24 at 11:00 a.m. at St. Cecilia Cathedral in Omaha, NE with Bishop Michael W. Warfel presiding.