



## Obituary for Robert Charles Olsen

Robert "Rob" Charles Olsen, 64, of Harvard, IL, died on Monday, October 14, 2019 at Autumn Lake Health Care.

He was born on November 2, 1954 in Chicago, IL, the son of Donald and Charline (Wollak) Olsen. Rob was a 1972 graduate of Carmel Catholic High School, Mundelein, IL. He married Mary Jeanne Lindinger on April 30, 1994 in Drexel Hill, PA.

Rob became interested in farming at an early age holding various agriculture related jobs, including as a dairy farmer before pursuing religious studies at Seton Hall University. He then attended the seminary at Maryknoll College, taking several missionary trips to Thailand and the Philippines. Rob was appointed as the Director of Religious Education for many years at the Sacred Heart Church in Marengo, IL and then for the past 9 years as the Director of Faith Formation at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, Beloit, WI. Rob taught classes in Social Justice and other Catholic topics for the Ministry Formation program as well as the Catechist Certification program for the Diocese of Rockford for more than 25 years. His passion was teaching and developing strong faith communities where ever he went while still finding time for farming and his favorite hobbies. Prior to his illness, he was an organic vegetable farmer, selling at farmers markets in Crystal Lake and Woodstock, IL. Rob enjoyed collecting toy tractors, playing the fiddle and the guitar, and being a part of the lives of the many children he taught throughout his religious education career over the years.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Jeanne Olsen of Harvard, IL; brothers, Bill (Derene) Olsen of Alamo, CA, Jay (Eileen) Olsen of LaGrange Park, IL, Charles Olsen of Garden Prairie, IL, Gregory (Marylu) Olsen of Villa Park, IL, Phillip (Diane) Olsen of Plymouth, MN; 14 nieces and nephews; sisters-in-law, Christine Lindinger and Elizabeth "Bets" (Charles) Smith; many cousins, other relatives and friends including his OLA family and children.

He was predeceased by his parents and infant sister, Shelley.

Visitation of remembrance will be from 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 26, 2019 in the Daley Murphy Wisch & Associates Funeral Home and Crematorium, 2355 Cranston Rd., Beloit, WI. There will also be a visitation from 2:45 p.m. until 3:45 p.m. on Sunday, October 27, 2019 in Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, 2222 Shopiere Rd., Beloit, WI, with a Funeral Mass of Christian Burial to follow at 4:00 p.m. with Fr. Michael Resop officiating. Private family inurnment will be in Mt. Thabor Cemetery.

Memorials may be given in his name to the OLA Faith Formation.