



Charles E. Kelliher

September 22, 1933 - June 2, 2022

Charles Edward Kelliher faithfully departed to be with the Lord on June 2, 2022 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. A Funeral Mass will be held 10:30 a.m. Monday, June 6, 2022 at St. James Catholic Church with Father Joe Hannappel officiating. Interment will follow at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday at the church followed by a 6:00 p.m. Vigil/Prayer Service.

He was born in Red Cloud Nebraska on September 22, 1933 to John D and Mary Ellen (Kellett) Kelliher. He attended public grade school in Red Cloud and high school in both Sacred Heart in Fall City, NE and St. Cecilia in Hastings graduating in 1951. He attended St. Benedict college in Atchison, KS and St. Paul seminary in St. Paul, MN and was ordained to the Catholic priesthood. He served as a parish priest and high school teacher at St Mary's David City, St Joseph's Beatrice as school superintendent, St. Mary's Cathedral in Lincoln, and St. Francis in David City teaching religion at Aquinas High School. In 1970 he took a leave of absence from the diocesan ministry and established the Youth Ranch for underprivileged children on ranchland south of Red Cloud. This later evolved with the help of others from Kearney into the Campus House ministry for wayward youths. In 1971, he answered a call to marriage and was united with Jeanine L Steichen at St. James Church of Kearney. After purchasing a farm north of Kearney on the Wood River, he served in the trust department of Platte Valley bank while farming and

ranching. He earned a Masters degree in Counseling Psychology and a PHD in Sociology and Family Relations. He opened the Marriage and Family Counseling Center and taught part time in the Department of Psychology at UNK. As a board member of the Crossroads Homeless shelter, he helped expand the shelter to its Kearney location.

He was a member of St. James Catholic Church where he was active in marriage encounter, enrichment, and adult education programs. He and Jeanine celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August.

He is survived by his wife, best friend, and loving companion Jeanine; sons, Michael and wife Tracy, and Timothy and wife Tiffany; six grandchildren Katherine, Joseph, Savannah, Seamus, Liam and Holly all of Kearney. He was preceded in death by his sister Brigid (Mary Catherine) Kelliher OSB.

Memorials are suggested to the Crossroads Shelter in Kearney. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 233-3244

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 5. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
3801 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847

Vigil / Prayer Service

JUN 5. 6:00 PM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
3801 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847

Funeral Mass

JUN 6. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
3801 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall

MA

“ *Marla lit a candle in memory of Charles E. Kelliher*



Marla - June 26, 2025 at 10:51 PM



“ *Charles E. Kelliher*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM

JR

“ *Dear Jeanine & family,
We are all so saddened to hear of Charles' passing. He was an inspiration as a peaceful man who believed in family, farming, and loving kindness to all he met. For we Regans, he was also a wealth of knowledge for our family history. We will miss him greatly. Our deepest sympathies to you and yours. Love, Jim (James) Regan, Lawrence, KS.*

Jim Regan - June 17, 2022 at 03:12 PM

DR

“ *Dr Kelliher played an important role in our family during a time of trial and frustration and I will be forever grateful!*

Doris Russell

Doris Russell - June 07, 2022 at 01:04 PM

BC

“ Tim.... I thought I'd let you know that I emailed Tad about the passing of your dad. He wrote back and said "Sorry to hear that. He was a very nice man." He wanted a copy of the obituary, which I will send to him. I didn't know your father, Tim, but from all accounts, he was a very special person. Sincerely, Barb Casper

Barb Casper - June 04, 2022 at 06:00 PM

KR

“ Jeanine and family,

I really enjoyed spending time with you during socials. I am so sorry for your loss. May God comfort you through His Word. My prayers and thoughts to you.

Kimberly Rebman



Kimberly Rebman - June 04, 2022 at 05:40 PM