

OGLE, Father Robert (Bob) Joseph

Father Bob Ogle was born on Christmas Eve, 1928, in Rosetown, Saskatchewan. After graduating from St. Peter's Seminary in Ontario, he was ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood in 1953. He also earned a Doctorate in Canon Law.



Father Bob served parishes in Saskatoon for some years, while also starting the Catholic Centre and the former St. Pius X Seminary on the University of Saskatchewan Campus.

In 1964, he volunteered to work with the Saskatoon Diocese missionary team in Brazil, where he served until 1970 before returning to Saskatoon. For the next five years, he served a Saskatoon parish, followed by travels in Asia and

Africa, which resulted in the publishing of a book about his experiences, *When the Snake Bites the Sun* (Texchuck Ent. Ltd., Saskatoon, 1977).

In 1979, Father Bob was elected as a New Democratic Party Member of Parliament for Saskatoon East. He was re-elected in 1980 and served until 1984. He chose not to run for a third term in 1984 due to a Vatican decree forbidding priests to be active in partisan politics.

Father Bob's work with the poor and underprivileged didn't end when his missionary work ended. He was one of the authors of government reports on Canada's relationship with Latin America; he produced a series of television programs called Ogle and Company, which were televised nationally; he wrote articles for newspapers; and wrote three books, the last published in 1990.

He was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1990, and received Saskatchewan's Order of Merit in 1995. In 1989, St. Paul University in Ottawa awarded him an honorary Doctor of the University Degree.

Father Bob suffered from cancer and other illnesses for many years, all the while continuing to promote the issues of world poverty. He died on April 1, 1998, after courageously battling cancer for 15 years, never stopping what he considered God's work in fighting social injustice for the poor and unfortunate.

At his funeral, Saskatchewan Premier, Roy Romanow, said, "*He was truly a citizen of the world. He was a man who lived the word of God - a man of peace and caring and compassion. I've tried to emulate him as much as I could.*"¹

¹Saskatoon *StarPhoenix*, April 7, 1998, Page 3