

## IN MEMORY OF

*Emma Henrietta Dirkx*

May 17, 1916  July 16, 2008

### FUNERAL MASS

10:30 a.m.

Monday, July 21, 2008

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Storm Lake, Iowa

### CLERGY

Reverend Bruce Lawler

### CANTOR

Diane Frank

### ORGANIST

Barb Pytel

### MUSIC

St. Mary's Caritas Choir

### CASKETBEARERS

Emma's Grandsons

Randy Illum, Allan Illum, Mike Illum, Ted Meyer, Tom Meyer

Craig Johnston, Chad Dirkx, Brian Dirkx, Aaron Honsbruch

Jeff Dirkx, David Dirkx, Scott Dirkx

Matt Dirkx, Chris Dirkx, Michael Dirkx

### HONORARY CASKETBEARERS

Bernard Meyer, Arnie Williams, Norm Lund

Francis Koch, Fred Cramer, Cecil Boeckman, Urban Snyder

### INTERMENT

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery — Storm Lake, Iowa



Arrangements by  
FRATZKE & JENSEN FUNERAL HOMES  
www.fratzkejensen.com

## Oh the Memories of You, Mother

Where should I start 'bout your generous heart.  
Of the memories in the past and your values instilled in us to last!

The magic of your patience when we were learning good sense.  
Was tested on your days of care with ideas of your ways to share!

We don't remember our days of young, the many diapers that you hung.  
And all the nights you did not sleep, keeping us quiet so not to weep.

You did it all in a pleasant mood—canning, freezing, making good food.  
With the multi-task of laundry, baking bread, scrubbing the floor,  
With eight of us it only lead to more.

Your pie crust were made with lard—easy for you, but for us hard.  
Without the crust falling apart; you kept many in the freezer, you were so smart.

You taught us the things we know: how to iron and how to sew.  
How to clean, to let you off the hook and how to follow a cookbook!

In your garden you did toil to plant the seeds and work the soil.  
All the vegetables you did pick so we could eat and not get sick.

Cleaning chickens a hundred a day, with Grandma and Liz there to stay.  
Plucked the feathers, cleaned them out  
Put them in the freezer and let out a shout!

A great hot summer day meant the smell of fresh hay.  
Taking your homemade lunch to the field  
Giving strength to Dad and the boys bringing in the yield.

You cleaned the house during the day; after school your hard work didn't stay.  
We would drop our coats and our books on the floor and not the hooks.

When we rushed in from school we could hardly keep our cool.  
When smelling home baked bread, we would eat it as if never fed!

You would have a list of chores—we would rather have made s'mores.  
But before we could play, we did our chores and not for pay.

We girls in the kitchen making wishes; gathering washing and drying the dishes.  
It was our after dinner duty as you listened and relaxed for your beauty.

You would say, "Wipe off the jar neck" and we would say "Oh what the heck."  
We now do understand when our hands get sticky  
And this all has made us rather picky.

At night you would sit and our socks you would mend  
We would laugh together before the day would end.  
After watching "I Love Lucy" on the TV box  
We were sent to bed as fast as a fox.

The grandkids do remember:  
The beds you sunk into. The BIG swing set that wasn't blue.  
The great big Christmas dinners, the grandkids who were winners.  
The Dads who played ball in the yard, not having anyone to guard.

You never forgot our birthdays that must be met.  
A special card you made, with one dollar for us to take.

We could never appreciate what it took to care for a family of eight.  
Even now when we are old, we could never compare it to the memories we hold.

You and God were very tight  
Your prayers that turn on the light.  
We thank you for your strength  
That you gave us with mighty length.

## Oh the Memories of You, Mother

—Written by Emma's daughter, Mary Jo (Dirkx) Johnston

# Celebrating A Special Life



## Emma H. Dirkx

1916 — 2008



**E**mma H. Dirkx, age 92, of Storm Lake, Iowa, died Wednesday, July 16, 2008, at Buena Vista Regional Medical Center in Storm Lake.

Emma Henrietta Stork was born May 17, 1916 in Wall Lake, Iowa, the daughter of Frank and Minnie (Tiefenthaler) Stork. She was baptized as an infant at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Breda, Iowa and affirmed her faith as a youth at her confirmation in the same parish in Breda. Emma received her education in St. Bernard's School in Breda, graduating from St. Bernard's High School with the Class of 1934.

On March 27, 1940, Emma was united in holy matrimony to Elmer Dirkx at St. Bernard's Parish in Breda. The couple was blessed with eight children: Diane, Carlene, Mary Jo, Allan, Ardan, Jolette, Richard and LaVern. Emma's family and her church were her priorities her entire life. She was a homemaker in the truest sense of the word: she loved to keep a warm and comfortable home for her family.

A faithful member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Storm Lake, Emma willingly shared her talents with her Lord as a member of St. Mary's Guild, where she

helped stitch many quilts to be shared with those less fortunate. She was also a member of the Catholic Daughters of America.

Emma enjoyed socializing with friends and neighbors in the Friendly Neighbors Club, 500 Club and Euchre Club. She sewed beautifully and enjoyed doing alterations in her home for others. For relaxation, Emma and

Elmer shared a love of fishing and she was always ready to take a fishing trip.

A loving and devoted wife and mother, Emma found a special place in her heart for her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren when they

came along in her later years. Her kind and caring ways will be deeply missed by all those who knew and loved her.

Left to cherish her memory are her children: Diane (Russell) Meyer of Alta, Iowa; Carlene (Paul) Illum of Marshalltown, Iowa; Mary Jo (Don) Johnston of Overland Park, Kansas; Allan (Rita) Dirkx of Granger, Iowa; Ardan (Kathy) Dirkx of Storm Lake; Jolette (Ron) Honsbruch of Cherokee, Iowa; Richard (Becky) Dirkx of Storm Lake; and LaVern (Monica) Dirkx of Carroll, Iowa; 25

grandchildren: Yvonne Meyer, Shari (Keith) Roethler, Theodore (Janet) Meyer, Karen (Jon) Crilly, Thomas (Samantha) Meyer, Randy (Patty) Illum, Allan (Michelle) Illum, Michael (Kristi) Illum, Craig (Jobyna) Johnston, Mary (Michael) Kolpin, Brian (Michele) Dirkx, Kara (Trent) Abrahamson, Chad (Denise) Dirkx, Kelli (Curtis) Binder, Tami (Sean) Beachem, Aaron Honsbruch, Gwen (Jason) Spooner, Jeffrey (Anne) Dirkx, Jodi (Shawn) Benberg, David (Jill) Dirkx, Scott (Amanda) Dirkx, Matthew Dirkx, Sara Dirkx, Christopher Dirkx, and Michael Dirkx; 40 great-grandchildren: Tara, Trista, Jonathon, Elijah, Michael, Bruce, Latoya, Payton, Kate, Randy, Matthew, Lea, Amber, Joshua, Austin,

Jacob, Kathryn, Jacob, Hudson, Alexandria, Stuart, Andrew, Jenna, Devin, Jada, MaKayla, Aurora, Ethan, Benjamin, Ava, Justine, Drew, Bennett, Oliver, Austin, Aidan, Ashton, Natalie, Morgan, and Lucas; one great-great-grandchild: Kailyn; sisters-in-law Margaret Reiling of Carroll, Iowa and Rita Stork of Seattle, Washington; many extended family members and a host of friends.

Emma was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Elmer, in 1981; her brothers: Connie, Irwin and Vernon Stork; and her sisters: Elizabeth Stork, Colette Stork, Sister Myra Stork and Leone Jensen.



**Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
You have faith in God; have faith also in me.  
In my Father's house there are  
many dwelling places.**

**If there were not, would I have told you that**

**I am going to prepare a place for you?**

**And if I go and prepare a place for you,**

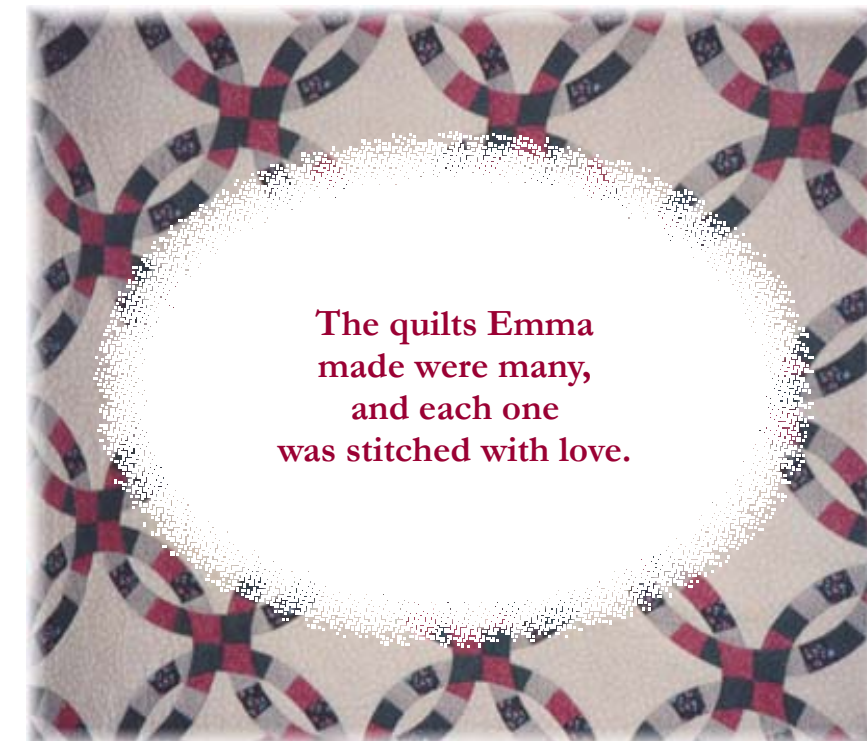
**I will come back again and take**

**you to myself, so that where I am**

**you also may be.**

**Where I am going you know the way.**

~ John 14:1-4



*W*e wish to express our gratitude for the many kindnesses shown to our family, and for taking the time to celebrate our mother's life with us. You are invited to join us for lunch and a time of fellowship at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Storm Lake immediately following the burial.

*The Dirkx Family*