

# Obituaries

## Father William Riefer, longtime seminary teacher

Father William J. Riefer, a retired priest of the Diocese of Rochester, died Friday, September 18, 1987, in Waterboro, S.C., after a prolonged illness.

A Hornell native, Father Riefer was born in 1916, and attended St. Ann's Elementary School before entering St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries. Bishop James E. Kearney ordained him to priesthood at Sacred Heart Cathedral on June 5, 1943.

After serving as associate pastor in St. Alphonsus Parish, Auburn, for one year, Father Riefer became professor of Latin and Greek, and director of music at St. Andrew's Seminary, where he served until 1964.

After leaving St. Andrew's, Father Riefer served as pastor at St. Theresa Parish, Stanley; and St. Mary's, Rushville; St. Francis, Phelps; and St. Joseph's, Wayland. In 1973, a debilitating illness forced him to retire to his apartment in Gorham, N.Y.

Father Riefer was noted for his dedication to each of his assignments, but in particular to preparing a generation of young men for priesthood. Known as a strict disciplinarian, he tried to bring forth each student's potential. Although he was considered a loner by some people, others who sought Father Riefer's spiritual direction found his reflective lifestyle to be a source of confidence.

He is survived by two sisters, Ann Clark of Lewiston, N.Y., and Margaret Ashworth of Hornell; an aunt, Mary Riefer of Hornell; an uncle, Leo Riefer of Bristol; and many nieces and nephews.

Father Elmer Schmidt celebrated a Mass of Christ the High Priest for Father Riefer at St. Ann's Church, Hornell, on Monday, September 21. On Tuesday, September 22, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan celebrated a Mass of Christian Burial. Interment was at St. Ann's Cemetery, Hornell.

## Father Joachim Shults, SS.CC., at 69

Father Joachim Shults, SS.CC., of the Sacred Hearts Provincial House, 3 Adams St., Fairhaven, Mass., died Friday, September 11, 1987, at St. Luke's Hospital in New Bedford, Mass. Father Shults, 69, was the son of the late Edward and Magadalen (Biel) Shults.

Born in Rochester, Father Shults entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts in 1940 and was ordained in Washington, D.C., in 1945.


During his career, Father Shults served various ministries throughout the country and in Hawaii. In Rochester, he served as pastor of Our Lady of Victory and at St. Peter and Paul's Church. In Massachusetts, Father Shults

served as an associate pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Fairhaven, St. Anthony's Church in Mattapoisett and Our Lady of the Assumption Church in New Bedford. He was also former pastor of St. Mary's Church in Fairhaven and St. Boniface Church in New Bedford.

Survivors include a sister, Madeline Shults of Rochester; a cousin, Mrs. Rita Austin; sister-in-laws, Rose Shults and Marjorie Shults also of Rochester; a niece, Mrs. Ellen Raetz; and a nephew, Paul Shults.

Donations may be made to Sacred Heart Building Fund, 3 Adams St., Box 111, Fairhaven, Massachusetts, 02719.

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