

Monsignor John F. Albert, 74, brigadier general in U.S. Air Force

Monsignor John F. Albert, 74, died August 1, 1989, after a long illness. Monsignor Albert was born in Rochester, the son of the late Henry M. and T. Mary Albert. After attending Holy Cross Elementary School and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, he was ordained to priesthood by Bishop James E. Kearney in Sacred Heart Cathedral on June 7, 1941.



Monsignor Albert served as assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church, Corning, for the first four years of his priesthood. In 1945 he entered the U.S. Army as chaplain, completing Chaplains' School at Fort Devens, Mass. In 1948 he was assigned to the newly formed U.S. Air Force where he served until retirement in 1972.

During this period Monsignor Albert was stationed literally all over the world with ultimate promotion to the rank of Brigadier General and Deputy Chief of Chaplains headquartered in Washington, D.C. The Holy Father, Pope John XXIII, honored him in 1969 with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor in "recognition of his excellent record as a dedicated chaplain."

Friends recall Monsignor Albert as a quiet, sincere, faith-filled priest. He was extremely conscientious in his own personal life and in his concern for the men and women of the Air Force and their families. He did not spare himself in providing support and encouragement to other chaplains; Catholic and non-Catholic alike,

who had given themselves to this special ministry. Despite his high military rank he was ever the pastor with the military personnel and their dependents.

On retirement from the Air Force, Monsignor Albert for a short time acted as Catholic religious director of the new towns of Gananda and Riverton. Because of failing health he moved to the Archdiocese of Denver where he founded in 1974 Holy Apostles Church in Village Seven, Colorado. Weakening health was a factor in a subsequent move to Albuquerque, New Mexico.

In 1982, Monsignor Albert returned home to Rochester and assisted in various parishes as his health permitted. He most recently ministered at the Sisters of Mercy

Motherhouse where he endeared himself to all the sisters in residence. His daily homilies, which gave evidence of characteristic preparation, were especially appreciated.

Monsignor Albert is survived by two sisters and brothers-in-law, Robert and Clara Solan, and Joseph and Irene Bovenzi; two brothers and sisters-in-law, Henry Albert, George and Ann Albert of California, and Doris Albert; a number of nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, and several cousins, including Father John Phillips.

Mass of the High Priest was celebrated at St. Thomas More Church at 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 3, followed by Mass of Christian Burial on Friday, Aug. 4. Interment was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Rest

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Although active in their own parish in Syracuse, the Neguses "take some interest in (Church of the Epiphany) because eventually we do figure on living out here," Negus said. He added that he and his wife

Terrorism

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than harm," said the priest, citing the "proportionality criteria" of the just-war theory.

O'Brien said often terrorists "deliberately hide behind civilians ... buried in slums" so that "surgical" bombing of their offices is impossible.

In such a case, if the United States were to attack, "the (terrorist) groups would have to take some of the blame" for lost innocent lives, he maintained.

Using any kind of military force to try to free the remaining hostages would "increase the spiral of violence and induce counterviolence," predicted Robert C. Johansen, senior fellow at the Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

When the Israelis took Sheik Obeid, "one bystander was killed in the process," he noted. "He, I think, was as important in the eyes of God as was Col. Higgins."

Even if it were possible for the United States to kill everyone holding hostages in Lebanon without harming a single innocent civilian, he said, such an act would "instill in every 7-, 8- and 9-year-old in Iran and Lebanon that we are a vicious country that goes thousands of miles from its shores to harm the people of their region."

To stamp out terrorism, he urged examining its root causes and the reasons behind anti-U.S. sentiment in the Middle East.

U.S. support of Israel in the conflict surrounding the Palestinians' struggle for self-determination, U.S. support of Israeli interests in Lebanon and U.S. military presence in the region have made Arabs and Moslems "extremely angry at the United States," he said.

"They say, 'What right does the United States have to put military warships in the eastern Mediterranean?' How would we feel if Iran were a superpower and an Iranian warship sailed into Long Island Sound or steamed into the Gulf of Mexico?" Johansen asked.

But looking at the root causes of terrorism is irrelevant, O'Brien argued.

"A bad means is a bad means. It's like saying a murder-rapist should be let off because he grew up in the ghetto — he's a good boy who grew up in a bad environment," he said. "Terrorism, by definition, is wrong."

have not officially registered at Epiphany, but said that when they move to Sodus Point full time — perhaps five years from now — they plan to become members of the parish and get more involved.

Shari and Neil deLaroche chose to move into their summer parish even before they retired. They bought a cottage on Keuka Lake and began attending St. Michael's during the summer while continuing to attend St. Mark's, Rochester, the rest of the year. Eventually, however, they discovered they preferred life in Yates County to life in the city.

"The pace is a lot slower," Neil deLaroche explained, adding, "My blood pressure has gone down."

"The people are friendly," Shari deLaroche said. "They don't care what people do for a living."

Alan Lefko is another summer visitor who chose to move from Rochester to St. Michael's. He and his wife owned a summer place for several years, then opted to sell their Rochester home and move. Lefko continues to commute to his job in Rochester, because he feels "life down here is worth the drive."

While they were summer people, the Lefkos, like the deLarochees, were not actively involved at St. Michael's. "If you're here just for the weekend, you're just in and out," Lefko explained. He noted that the parish did not make any particular effort to welcome the summer people. "It was very neutral," he said. "But it wasn't

unwelcoming."

After becoming a parishioner, Lefko became aware of the financial contribution the summer people make to the parish. Father Michatek estimated that during the summer months, the collection increases approximately \$1,000 per weekend.

At St. Mary of the Hills, for example, the increase in the summer collection is so important that "financially we couldn't live without them," noted Joan McGlynn, the parish's business administrator. Weekly collections rise from less than \$1,000 during the winter months to approximately \$1,800 during the summer, she said.

In contrast, Father Robert Smith, pastor of the parishes comprising the Community of the Blessed Trinity in Wayne County, reported that while attendance at the parishes goes up during the summer, contributions actually decrease.

This pattern has been going on for several years, and Father Smith attributed it in part to a restructuring of the parishes in the area to create two clusters — the Community of the Blessed Trinity and the Northern Cayuga Cluster. In addition to this change, the number of priests in the community was reduced to one, forcing an elimination of some Masses. "An awful lot of the increase went elsewhere when we went to the new Mass schedule," he said.

Nevertheless, the cluster is involved in two building projects necessitated in part by the increased number of summer visitors. At St. Mary Magdalene, parishioners

are involved with an \$80,000 project to expand the church and provide more seating. At St. Thomas, parishioners are trying to buy the lot next to the church to allow for future expansion and more parking.

In addition, during the summer months, St. Thomas, which has a capacity of approximately 144, is closed because it cannot hold the number of people wishing to attend Mass. Instead the cluster's mission church, St. Jude's in Fairhaven, is opened. Although St. Jude's is more spacious — with a seating capacity of 360 — it lacks heating and insulation, and cannot be used in winter.

Father Smith predicted that attendance in the cluster will go up as more people buy lakeshore property. "More people are making their summer places their year-round homes," he said.

"I think more of that will happen in the future," he continued. "A lot of these people bought these places 20 years ago, and they're starting to get closer to retirement. Some have already started winterizing."

Even when vacationers continue to visit only during the summer months, however, they are welcomed by parishes, Father Hogan said.

"They certainly do bring a spirit to the celebration (of the Mass), Father Hogan said. "It's great to be in touch with so many people who come back each summer. For many of the people, it's their home away from home."

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