

Monsignor Richard K. Burns, 87, pastor

Monsignor Richard K. Burns, who for 28 years was pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Irondequoit, was buried on the parish grounds Friday, September 8. The well-known priest died September 4, 1989, following a short illness.

A Rochester native, Monsignor Burns was born on April 7, 1912. He attended Blessed Sacrament School and St. Andrew's Seminary, and for two years, St. Bernard's Seminary. In 1934, he was assigned to the North American College in Rome, Italy, and was ordained on December 8, 1937, by the Most Rev. Ralph Hayes, rector of the college.

Monsignor Burns was awarded a licentiate in theology from Gregorian University in Rome in 1938. Upon returning to Rochester that summer, he was named assis-

tant pastor of Holy Rosary Church in Rochester. In June, 1942, he transferred to the faculty of St. Andrew's Seminary where he taught history and Italian. He was appointed a pro-synodal judge of the diocesan tribunal in 1945.

In the summer of 1945, Monsignor Burns was appointed to the post of professor of moral theology at St. Bernard's Seminary, but spent only a semester there before being assigned to be one of the *minutanti* (secretaries) of the Vatican Congregation for the Eastern Church. He returned to Rome in March, 1946.

The North American College had been closed during World War II, but plans to reopen it were underway by 1946. The college's rector, Most Rev. Martin J. O'Connor, named Monsignor Burns vice-rector in 1947.

The priest's new duties consisted of inducting and training seminarians, and in 1948 he helped to supervise the reconstruction of the college's original buildings and the construction of the new college plant, dedicated in 1953, near St. Peter's Cathedral. Monsignor Burns earned his title of monsignor after being named papal cham-

berlain in 1948, and domestic prelate in 1953.

Bishop James E. Kearney called Monsignor Burns home in 1954, and on June 29, named him pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Church. The parish was growing rapidly, and the new pastor, armed with his architectural experience from Rome, supervised the building of the parish's convent, completed in 1958, and of a free-standing church, completed in 1965.

The monsignor was admired by his parishioners for more than just his architectural expertise. His congregation especially noted his constant attention to the parish's sick and his solicitude for their families at the time of death.

Monsignor Burns also served as diocesan vicar for religious from 1955 to 1966, during which time he traveled throughout the diocese visiting convents and encouraging priests.

Monsignor Burns retired in 1982, but remained active at St. Thomas until he was assigned to be assistant pastor at Holy Cross Parish in 1985, where his duties included ministering to Italian-speaking parishioners.



The Mass of Christ the High Priest was celebrated Wednesday evening at Holy Cross Church, with the Mass of Christian Burial taking place at St. Thomas the Apostle on Friday, September 8. Monsignor Burns' interment on the grounds of St. Thomas the Apostle was arranged in accordance with his wishes.

Sister Laurita Gund, 88, SSND, teacher

Sister Mary Laurita Gund, SSND, a native of Rochester who taught in diocesan schools for 10 years, died Thursday, August 31, 1989, in Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton, Conn. She was 88.

Born in Rochester on January 25, 1901, Sister Mary Laurita — a professed member of the School Sisters of Notre Dame for 68 years — entered the order from St. Michael's Church when she was 20 years old.

Sister Mary Laurita taught at various schools in downstate New York, New Jersey and Connecticut for 45 years before she returned to Rochester in 1963 to teach at Holy Redeemer School. She stayed there until 1969, when she moved to St. Margaret Mary, Rochester. Sister Mary Laurita retired from teaching in 1973. She lived in the St. Margaret Mary Convent until 1982, when she moved to the SSND motherhouse in Wilton.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Saturday, Sept. 2. Interment was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Bethel, Conn.

Donations in memory of Sister Mary Laurita Gund may be made to: SSND Development Fund, 345 Belden Hill Rd., Wilton, Conn., 06897.

Tax suit

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no standing to file any motions concerning it until they were charged with contempt. Legal experts said it was the first time any national church body, Catholic or otherwise, had been ruled in contempt of court and slapped with major punitive fines for failing to obey a court order.

The appeals court said its dismissal of the suit also meant that Carter's contempt ruling was voided.

As a result of the new appellate ruling, Chopko said, "all tax-exempt groups should take comfort in the fact that their political opponents may not challenge their tax exemption as a device to punish them for engaging in the public debate of controversial issues."

Marshall Beil, attorney for ARM and the

other plaintiffs, said Sept. 7 that he expected they would file an appeal.

"The case is not over as far as we're concerned," he said.

The basic options available, he said, are to ask the full appeals court to reconsider

the ruling of the three-judge panel, or else to appeal to the Supreme Court.

He was leaning toward first asking a reconsideration by the full appeals court bench, he said, but added he was still "studying the decision."

Bishop

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"The overall thing is you've got hired professionals in the development office; it's their job to guide the appeal," Seeberg explained.

In addition, the Priests Advisory Committee will be expanded into a steering committee that will include lay people. The representation on that committee has already been made regional, with the current priest members asked to serve as liaisons between the central TGA office and

the pastors and in the parishes in each region.

Furthermore, follow-up solicitation, currently done by parish volunteers, will be taken over by development office personnel after the final parish turn-in date, Dec. 15. "There's only so much volunteers can do," Seeberg concluded.

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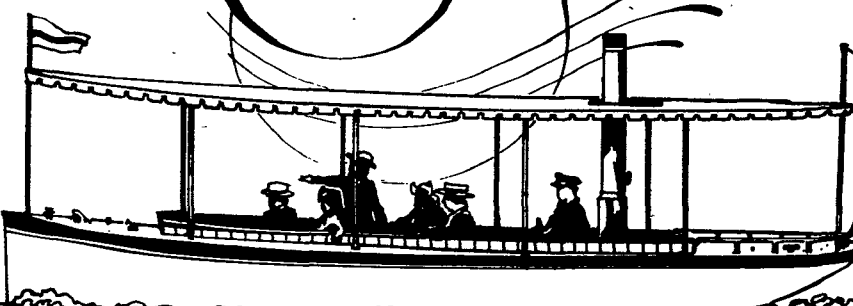
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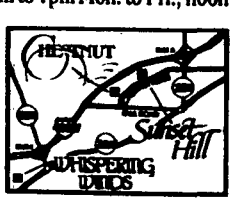
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