

# Police investigate priest's death

DUNDEE — Father Henry Adamski died Wednesday, Nov. 29, of cardiovascular failure brought on by high temperatures in his apartment.

According to Yates County Sheriff's Chief Deputy Ron Spike, the high temperature was apparently caused by a faulty furnace in Father Adamski's apartment at 49 Seneca Street, Dundee.

The temperature, estimated at between 120 and 150 degrees, caused one volunteer firefighter who entered the apartment to be treated for heat inhalation at Soldier's and Sailor's Memorial Hospital in Penn Yan, according to a report in the *Finger Lakes Times*.

Father Adamski, 72, was pronounced dead in the hospital's emergency room at 5:07 p.m.

Firefighters were called to the apartment after a neighbor, Shirley Van Dyne of 51 Seneca St., knocked at Fr. Adamski's door and received no response, but noticed the door was hot.

Van Dyne went to the apartment after two friends of Father Adamski had come from Bradford after trying to call him. The friends discovered his car in the garage beneath the apartment, but received no answer when they tried his door.

Spike said that Father Adamski apparently woke up, discovered the heat in the

apartment, turned the thermostat as low as it would go, then went into the bathroom. There, he passed out due to hyperthermia, and died because of cardiovascular failure.

The Sheriff's Department impounded the thermostat and a valve from the furnace. An investigation into what caused the furnace's failure is continuing, Spike said.

Father Adamski had lived in Dundee since his retirement from active ministry in 1987. For 17 years, he served as pastor of St. Casimir's Parish, Elmira. During the past two years, he had assisted at St. Andrew's Parish, a mission parish of St. Michael's, Penn Yan.

The only resident priest in the history of St. Andrew's, Father Adamski helped at the 9 a.m. Mass every Sunday, and took his turn preaching. He also organized devotions to Mary, and was available to the 80 families registered in the mission parish.

Father William Michatek, pastor of St. Michael's, described Father Adamski as a man of "very deep faith," who had a sense of humor and great loyalty to friends and superiors. The retired priest was also relieved that he no longer had the administrative responsibilities of being a pastor, Father Michatek observed.

"He enjoyed his retirement," Father Michatek said. "He felt very relieved to be

a priest in a spiritual sense."

Father Adamski retired in Dundee, Father Michatek speculated, so that he could be between Rochester, where he was born, and Elmira. Dundee is also near St. Stanislaus, Bradford, and St. Joseph's Campbell, where Father Adamski had served as pastor from 1965 to 1970.

Born Oct. 4, 1916, Father Adamski was a member of St. Stanislaus Parish in Rochester. He attended St. Andrew's Seminary and St. Bernard's Seminary, and was ordained a priest June 6, 1942.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, a classmate, said Father Adamski was a good friend who was "as loyal and supportive as you could possibly be." Father Adamski had even come to St. Margaret Mary's Parish, Rochester, on Nov. 26, to celebrate Bishop Hogan's 20th episcopal anniversary. "It was a surprise," Bishop Hogan said, adding, "He seemed his old self."

After ordination, Father Adamski was appointed assistant pastor of St. Stanislaus, Rochester, in 1942. He moved to St. John's, Clyde, as an assistant in 1950, then returned to St. Stanislaus. He remained there until being appointed pastor at St. Stanislaus, Bradford, and St. Joseph's in 1965.

In 1970, Father Adamski was named pastor of St. Casimir's, Elmira. Father



Father Henry F. Adamski

Joseph Egan, a classmate who served as his assistant pastor from 1981-87, recalled that the people of the parish admired and respected Father Adamski.

"He was very approachable to people," Father Egan said. "He was very devoted to his people."

Father Adamski was involved with the formation of Elmira's Holy Family Consolidated School System in 1972. Father Daniel Holland, pastor of St. Patrick's, Elmira, since 1979, noted that Father

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# Critics blast proposed plan in Southwest Quadrant

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — At St. Theodore's, the proposed reorganization of Catholic schools in southwestern Monroe County is about as well-liked as the Communist Party has become in East Germany.

At a public hearing on the proposed reorganization last Thursday night, Nov. 30, at Holy Ghost Church, St. Theodore's pastor, Father Gerald Dunn, stood at the podium and bellowed: "Please give me my parish back!"

Dozens of listeners stood and cheered the priest as he criticized the proposed location of the quadrant's junior high in St. Theodore's School, which currently houses kindergarten through eighth grade.

The pastor's criticisms were echoed by Sister Elaine Englert, SSJ, St. Theodore's principal. She noted that the proposal did not clearly state where her school's students would go following quadrant reorganization.

"Clarity is needed in the explanation of the junior high system," she said, adding that St. Theodore's school board opposed the tentative plan outlined by James Sloane, a representative of St. Jude's Parish to the Southwest Quadrant Planning Board. The planning board is one of four such boards charged with reorganizing Catholic schools in Monroe County.

About 400 people attended the Thursday night session. More than 600 attended a similar public hearing on Wednesday, Nov. 29, at Most Precious Blood Parish.

Sloane stated that the proposed plan comprises three key parts, covering the following areas:

- Governance — A governance board

would be established by July, 1990, consisting of representatives from each parish, and two pastors, principals and catechetical leaders. An executive committee would develop quadrant policies on such areas as programming and public relations.

- Finance — A uniform tuition rate would be established for all quadrant students.

The combined budgets of all seven schools in the southwest quadrant would make up the quadrant budget. Ideally, 60 percent of the quadrant budget would be covered by tuition and fundraisers. The remainder of the budget would be financed by:

- Parish education subsidies — a subsidy assessed from each parish based on its share of the student population.

- Funds from the diocesan development office — The Catholic Foundation's scholarship patrons program, which will match donors with disadvantaged children, and a special gifts program, which will match benefactors with special programs and such school needs as renovation projects and math/science programs.

- Building organization — St. Theodore's School would become the site of a quadrant junior high in September, 1991. The remaining six schools in the quadrant would become K-6 schools, with the exception of St. Monica's, which has requested to remain a K-8 school because it serves Rochester's inner-city black population.

Many of St. Theodore's school parents dislike the proposed location for the junior high because they fear that losing the elementary school will destroy their parish's community, according to Chris Coleman, whose daughter attends St. Theodore's sixth grade.

"There are real questions as to why (the planning board) is taking a relatively strong school ... and tak(ing) it all apart," he said. "It's almost frightening."

Father Dunn noted that several of the

school parents have stated that, should St. Theodore's elementary school close, they would rather send their children to local public schools than send them to other Catholic schools in the quadrant. "They pretty much want a K-8," he said.

St. Monica's request to remain untouched by the quadrant's reorganization also drew criticism from many at the Nov. 30 meeting. A few of the parish representatives who spoke ridiculed an opinion piece on St. Monica's that appeared in Rochester's *Democrat and Chronicle* the day of the meeting.

Written by St. Monica's principal, Gaynelle Wethers, the piece asserted that: "St. Monica's is not an ordinary parochial school. Its student body is 90 percent minority and non-Catholic. About 50 percent are from single parent families. Half of the

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