

Fr. Thomas K. Cleary, longtime Dryden pastor, at 75

Father Thomas K. Cleary, pastor emeritus of Holy Cross Church in Dryden, died Sunday, Dec. 3, 1989, at St. Mary Our Mother Rectory in Horseheads after a long illness. He was 75.

For 47 years, Father Cleary served parishes in the Southern Tier of the Diocese of Rochester, spending 35 of those years serving the people of Dryden. Assigned to the Dryden Catholic Mission in 1950, he became pastor when Holy Cross Parish was established in 1962, and remained in the post until his retirement in 1985.

In addition to his duties as pastor in Dryden, Father Cleary was Catholic chaplain for the George Jr. Republic, a facility for troubled youths in nearby Freeville, where he pioneered ecumenical ministry in youth work.

Born November 9, 1914, in Rochester, the son of the late Michael E. and Katherine Kennedy Cleary attended Corpus Christi School and graduated from St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. Bishop James E. Kearney ordained Father Cleary in 1942 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, after which he was assigned to St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Rochester.

In 1943, Father Cleary moved to St. Patrick's, Corning, where he served for six

years before undertaking the assignment in Dryden.

Although he suffered from ill health for most of his priesthood, friends and family remember Father Cleary for his unfailing wit and humor. Parishioners recall his unstinting care for the sick.

Father Cleary spent his final years as senior priest at St. Mary Our Mother, where he continued to care for others who

were ill.

Father Cleary's brother was Monsignor Donald M. Cleary, who died 20 years earlier.

Father Cleary is survived by nieces Geri Norton and Katherine Sporn and families; and nephew Michael E. Daly and family.

After Father Cleary had lain in state at St. Mary Our Mother Church December 4, 1989, Mass of Christ the High Priest was

celebrated. Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated the following day at Holy Cross, where Father Cleary also lay in state.

Interment will be in the priests' plot at Calvary Cemetery in Ithaca. In lieu of flowers, Father Cleary requested that he be remembered with memorial contributions to St. Mary Our Mother Church or Holy Cross Church.

Fr. Donald Starks, Albany pastor, Rochester native

COLONIE — Father Donald L. Starks, a retired pastor in the Albany area and a native of Rochester, died Thursday, Nov. 16, 1989, in Memorial Hospital, Albany, after a long illness. He was 72.

Father Starks was retired pastor of St. Francis de Sales Church in West Albany and Loudonville. He was one of the founders of St. Francis de Sales Church in Loudonville, according to his sister, Marie V. Starks, of Fairport, who said her brother was known as a "fearless and forceful preacher" with a dynamic and caring personality.

"One of the things I remember most about Don is that he was so thoughtful," Starks said. "He would travel great distances for those who were sick or distraught."

Born and raised in Rochester, Father Starks attended St. Monica's School and St. Andrew's Seminary. He served in the United States Army in the South Pacific during World War II. After his arrival back in the States, Father Stark entered Our Lady of Angels Seminary in Niagara, Niagara County, in 1946. He was ordained in Albany by Bishop Edmund Gibbons in 1949.

The priest's first assignment was as associate pastor of St. Francis de Sales Church in Troy, N.Y. After serving as associate pastor of St. Ambrose Church in Latham in 1955, he was associate pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Albany from 1956 to 1964. From 1964 to 1966, he served as chaplain for the Newman Club at the State

University at Albany.

Father Starks began his assignment at St. Francis de Sales Church in Loudonville as administrator in 1966. He was named pastor of the parish in 1966, a position he held until his retirement in 1985. He had lived at the Teresian House in Albany since his retirement.

In addition to serving as a member of the Colonie Elks Lodge 2192 and the Latham-Colonie Knights of Columbus, he also served as chaplain for the New York State Police.

In addition to his sister, survivors include another sister, Eileen J. Starks, also of Fairport; two brothers, Father R. M. Starks of Scotia and Homer R. Starks of Rochester.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday, Nov. 21, in St. Francis de Sales Church. Burial took place in Our Lady of Angels Cemetery.

Contributions may be made to Our Lady of Hope Residence (Little Sisters of the Poor), Latham, N.Y.

Police

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Adamski was a strong supporter of Catholic schools.

"He was an active promoter of the school system," Father Holland observed. "He found ways to add financial assistance for the schools."

Father Holland said that Father Adamski was also helpful to younger priests, himself in particular. "I consulted him on penitential questions and about schools," Father Holland said. "He always gave good advice to me as a young pastor starting out."

Father Adamski retired in June, 1987. A retirement dinner given in his honor attracted approximately 400 people.

In recent years, the priest had been troubled by trembling in his hands that became so severe that he was unable to write. Father Michatek noted, however, that the retired priest continued to be active in spite of the problem, and that his good spirits and sense of humor continued.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark celebrated the Mass of Christ the High Priest for Father Adamski on Saturday, Dec. 2, at St. Patrick's Church, Elmira. The Mass of Christian Burial took place Monday, Dec. 4, at St. Stanislaus Church, Rochester, with Bishop Hogan as principal celebrant.

Father Adamski is survived by four brothers and their wives: Edward and Florelle, Walter and Marion, Thaddeus and Phyllis, and Richard and Gail, all of Rochester; and numerous nieces and nephews.

— Lee Strong

Placement exam slated

ROCHESTER — Nazareth Academy has scheduled a placement exam for Saturday, Jan. 6, at 8:30 a.m. The 118-year-old school, a past recipient of the National Award for Excellence, is open to girls.

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