

Obituaries

Father Richard Hart, 64; beloved pastor

HENRIETTA — Father Richard A. Hart, longtime pastor of Guardian Angels Church, died suddenly of heart failure at Strong Memorial Hospital on Sunday, June 19, 1994. He was 64.



A Rochester native, Father Hart was born to the late Joseph A. and Rose M. Schneider Hart on July 24, 1929. He attended Immaculate Conception School, St. Andrew's Seminary and St. Bernard's Seminary.

Bishop James E. Kearney ordained Father Hart on June 4, 1955, at Sacred Heart Cathedral. He served as assistant pastor at St. Ann's Parish in Hornell from 1955-56, then as assistant pastor at Church of the Assumption in Fairport from 1956-58.

In 1958, Father Hart was named chaplain at Geneva DeSales High School, where he remained until 1969. According to Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, Father Hart held many fond memories of his years at DeSales. He frequently returned to DeSales to visit with faculty and students.

From 1969-72, Father Hart served as

assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Cathedral. In 1972, he was named pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in Cato and St. Thomas Parish in Red Creek.

Father Hart was appointed pastor of Guardian Angels Parish in 1975. One of his most significant moves as pastor was working out a link between Guardian Angels and Good Shepherd schools — now part of the Rush-Henrietta School System.

Bishop Hickey, who in recent years assisted Father Hart at Guardian Angels, noted that the late pastor made a point of attending every service in the parish to greet people.

"He knew every person in the parish by name," Bishop Hickey said.

In addition, Father Hart was noted for his ability to counsel fellow priests, Bishop Hickey said. He observed that Father Hart was also an intellectual, but that he rarely flaunted his intelligence simply to attract attention to himself.

"He was very humble about it," Bishop Hickey said. "I don't think I ever heard him use the word 'I' when he preached."

Father Hart had open heart surgery in 1987, followed by an operation for colon cancer. He continued to have heart problems and regularly joked that

he thought he would not live long, Bishop Hickey recalled. At the same time, he rarely complained about his problems. He entered Strong Hospital June 16.

A Mass of Christ the High Priest was celebrated for Father Hart at Guardian Angels Church on June 22. Bishop Hickey was the principal celebrant and homilist.

A Mass of Christian Burial was scheduled to be celebrated 11:30 a.m. June 23, at the Henrietta church. Bishop Matthew H. Clark was scheduled to be the principal celebrant.

Interment was in the priests' plot in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Father Hart is survived by two brothers, Father William M. Hart, retired pastor of Holy Trinity Church in Webster, and John (and Gertrude) Hart of Rochester; and two sisters, Rose Ann Hart of Greece, and Teresa (and William) Knassis of Rochester; as well as several nieces, grandnieces and grandnephews.

The family requests that contributions in Father Hart's memory be made to the Guardian Angels Church Renovation Fund, 2061 E. Henrietta Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14623.

— Lee Strong

Jean M. Milliken, 88; St. Patrick's parishioner

ELMIRA — Jean M. Milliken, a convert to Catholicism and a longtime member of St. Patrick's Church in Elmira, died of heart failure May 1, 1994, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira. She was 88.

Mrs. Milliken converted to Catholicism on Dec. 8, 1923 — a day she celebrated each year as a special anniversary, according to her daughter Sister Kathleen Milliken, RSM. She married

the late Cornelius J. Milliken in 1925. The couple had 14 children. Her husband passed away in 1956. One son, William, was killed in an automobile accident in 1964.

Faith and the church played a vital role in Mrs. Milliken's life, her daughter said. She read the Scriptures and said the rosary daily. She was also an active member of the St. Joseph's Hospital

Auxiliary and a former board member of Catholic Charities.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Mrs. Milliken May 5 at St. Patrick's Church, 604 Park Place. The homilist and principal celebrant was her son, Father Damien Milliken, OSB, a missionary in Tanzania, East Africa. Burial was at St. Peter and Paul Cemetery.

In addition to her son and daughter, Mrs. Milliken is survived by 11 other children: Therese (Carmen) Esposito, Cornelius J. (Jean), Jean Sweeney, and Joseph (Sylvia) Milliken, all of Elmira; Elizabeth (James) Williams, of Rochester; Helene (Lloyd) Clark, of Silver Spring, Md.; Mary Virginia (Frank) Welch, of Los Alamos, N.M.; James (Anna) Milliken, of Ellsworth, Maine; Margaret (Charles) Nittinger, of Sayre, Pa.; Rose (Arthur) Nehring, of Tuscon, Ariz.; and Ann (Lawrence) Henson, of Washington, D.C.; one sister, Harriet Doltoske, of Wyoming, Mich.; 41 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; five nieces and two nephews.

Donations in Mrs. Milliken's memory may be made to St. Paul's Abbey African Mission Fund, c/o Margaret M. Nittinger, 311 N. Keystone Ave., Sayre, Pa. 18840.

Bishop Hickey set to celebrate annual Field Mass dedication

ROCHESTER — The 77th annual Field Mass will take place this Sunday, June 26, at 10 a.m. at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, 2461 Lake Ave.

Co-sponsored by the Knights of St. John and the cemetery, the Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Dennis W. Hickey in the open area in front of All Souls Chapel on the east side of Lake Ave.

Dedication of the new "Garden of the Sepulchre," located inside the west gate entrance, will follow the Mass. Bishop Hickey will bless the six-foot high bronze Pieta (at right), which was cast in Italy from a plaster mold created from Michelangelo's original work.



Provided photo

Field Mass & Dedication Ceremony

You are cordially invited
to share in the Annual Field Mass
and the dedication of the new
"Garden of the Sepulchre"
at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery
Rochester, NY
on Sunday June 26, 1994
at 10 a.m.

Most Reverend Dennis W. Hickey D.D. Presider

The Mass will be celebrated in front of All Souls Chapel on the east side of Lake Avenue and the dedication will take place at the west main gate area. For your comfort please bring your own seating. Parking will be available on the grounds.

Nigerian's ordination slated for Piffard abbey

PIFFARD — African drums and liturgical dance will accompany the ordination of Deacon Bonaventure Ogbonna of Awthum, Nigeria, to the priesthood. The ordination Mass will take place on Tuesday, June 28, at 9:30 a.m. inside the Abbey of the Genesee, 3258 River Road.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark, assisted by Abbot John Eudes Bamberger, OCSO, will perform the ordination.

Deacon Ogbonna is a member of the abbey's community. He had been living at the Cistercian Abbey of New Clairvaux in Vina, Calif., while he completed his studies at the Graduate Theological Union Berkeley, Calif.

Although he may eventually return to Nigeria, Deacon Ogbonna will live with the Piffard community following his ordination.

Hispanic mission set for Newark, Geneva

NEWARK — Finger Lakes-area Hispanics are invited to take part in a mission in Newark and Geneva that will feature two Masses before the actual celebration.

The mission's preparation will begin with 7 p.m. Masses June 24 (the feast of St. John the Baptist) and July 16 (the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel) at St. Michael's Church, 401 S. Main St.

The actual mission will take place Aug. 15-16 at St. Francis DeSales Church, 130 Exchange St., Geneva, and Aug. 17-18 at St. Michael's Church. The mission's closing is scheduled for St. Michael's on Aug. 19. All sessions will begin at 7 p.m.

St. Mary's to host service honoring Mary June 25

WATERLOO — St. Mary's Parish, 25 Center St., will celebrate its seventh annual prayer service in honor of Our Lady, Queen of Peace on Saturday, June 25.

The service will begin with exposition of the Eucharist at 6 p.m., followed at 6:30 p.m. by the rosary and confessions.

Father Albert Shamon will celebrate a 7:30 p.m. Mass, to be followed by a healing and anointing service. Call 315/539-9010 or 716/394-0604 for information.

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