

Senior advocate Fr. Gerald E. Dunn dies at 72

GATES — Frank Philioppone, whose management firm oversees Dunn Towers, a government-subsidized senior citizen residence, remembers Father Gerald E. Dunn, pastor of St. Theodore's Church from 1968-1992, as a great friend and crossword-puzzle player.

"I learned a lot of words from him," Philioppone said with a laugh.

More importantly, though, Father Dunn taught Philioppone about striving to do your best.

"He certainly has helped to prepare the standard of excellence for retirement homes," Philioppone said of Father Dunn, who died in Florida on Wednesday, Sept. 20, 1995. He was 72 years old.

Indeed, the two Dunn Towers, which stand behind St. Theodore's Church, are considered among the best subsidized senior living complexes in the country, according to many observers. And they owe their existence to the persistence of the priest for whom they were named, observers said.

"Thanks in large part to Father Dunn's efforts, the Town of Gates offers more units of subsidized housing for seniors than most suburban areas in Monroe County provide," according to a 1988 article in what was then the *Courier-Journal*.

In addition to his tireless work on behalf of senior citizens, Father Dunn, who was ordained in 1948, was also known for other charitable efforts.

As chaplain of the Gates Police Department, Father Dunn was always available to law enforcement officials, commented Father Robert J. Schrader, who served the late priest's assistant pastor in the 1980s.

"Often he would go out with them at midnight on the weekends and ride with them during their busiest hours," said Father Schrader, who now serves as pastor



File photo

Father Gerald E. Dunn, former pastor of St. Theodore's Church in Gates and a champion for the elderly, died in Florida Sept. 20 at age 72.

of St. Mary's Church in Auburn. "He was very helpful when there was a crisis where a chaplain was needed."

A member of the Gates Lions Club and the Knights of Columbus, Father Dunn was named the Lions' Citizen of the Year in 1980. To honor him with the award, the club had to waive a 22-year rule against honoring its own members.

Born in Rochester in 1923, Father Dunn was baptized and confirmed at St. John the Evangelist Parish on Humboldt Street.

In addition to attending his parish school, Father Dunn attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries before his ordination in 1948.

Prior to his service at St. Theodore's, Father Dunn served as assistant pastor at the following parishes: Immaculate Conception, Rochester, from 1948-55; St. Patrick's, Corning, from 1955-58; and St. Monica's, Rochester, from 1958-68.

Father Dunn is survived by his mother, Harriet Dunn, and his brothers and sisters-in-law, Raymond and Irene; Thomas and Janet; and James and Joan Dunn of Richmond, Va.; a sister-in-law, Ann Meredith; a cousin, Sister Lily McBride, SSJ, and other cousins; and many nieces and nephews.

A Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at St. Theodore's on Saturday, Sept. 23.

Interment took place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester.

Contributions may be made to School of the Holy Childhood, 100 Groton Parkway, Rochester, N.Y. 14623; or to St. Theodore's Capital Maintenance Fund, 168 Spencerport Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14606.

-Rob Cullivan

Father Charles A. Ryan; served in Virginia diocese

Father Charles A. Ryan, a Geneva native who served as a priest in the Diocese of Arlington, Va., died Wednesday, Sept. 13, 1995, in Virginia following a long bout with cancer. He was 73.

Born in Geneva Aug. 14, 1922, to the late Cornelius and late Helen Ryan, Father Ryan attended St. Ambrose School in Rochester before going on to St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. After graduating from the college program at St. Bernard's in 1944, he completed his theological studies at St. Francis Seminary in Loretto, Pa. He was ordained in Rochester May 6, 1948, by then-Bishop James E. Kearney.

Father Ryan was followed into the priesthood in 1951 by a younger brother, Father Albert V. Ryan, who died May 26, 1987, while serving as the pastor of St. Mary's Church in Bath.

Between 1948 and 1965, Father Charles Ryan served as associate pastor

at several Virginia parishes. He was named administrator of St. Joseph's Parish in Martinsville in 1965 and became its pastor a year later.

From 1970-76, Father Ryan was pastor of Holy Comforter Parish in Elkton and Our Lady of the Valley Mission in Luray. In 1976, he was named pastor of Our Lady of the Valley. He remained there until 1981, when he was named pastor of St. Philip Parish in Falls Church. He served as pastor of St. William of York Parish in Stafford from 1986-88, after which he retired from active ministry due to ill health.

Sister Marena Buckland, RSM, of Rochester, Father Ryan's niece, said that he loved living in Virginia, but kept in touch with family in Rochester over the years. He also made a point of contacting women religious from the Rochester diocese who were studying in Washington, D.C., and often took them out to see the

sights.

"He was a very caring person," Sister Buckland said of her uncle. "He took everybody's problems on his own shoulders."

A funeral Mass for Father Ryan was celebrated at St. Andrew the Apostle Church in Centreville, Va., Sept. 18. Interment was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester.

In addition to Sister Buckland, Father Ryan is survived by one sister, Helen Ryan, of Rochester; a brother and sister-in-law, Jack and Mary Ryan, also of Rochester; five other nieces; and eight nephews.

-Lee Strong

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Prayer For Seminarians

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Give them true humility, meekness, prudence, and a burning zeal for souls. Fill their hearts with the gifts of the Holy Ghost. Teach them to know and love the Church, that they may always and everywhere speak, act and think, with her, the glorious Spouse of Christ. Teach them generosity and detachment from the miserable things of this world; but above all, teach them to know Thee, and to love Thee, the one and only Eternal Priest. Amen.

We pray there may be increased vocations to the priesthood.

OCTOBER, 1995 DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Rev. Frs: 1 Brian Murphy, O. Carm	2 Joseph M. McDonnell	3 Elmer A. McNamara	4 Robert G. Kreckel	5 Stephen R. Kraus	6 Lawrence A. Gross	7 Robert J. Donovan
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29 Emmett J. Halloran	30 William J. Cosgrove	31 Richard T. Farrell	Look for next month's MPRP Calendar in the October 26th Catholic Courier			