

# OBITUARIES

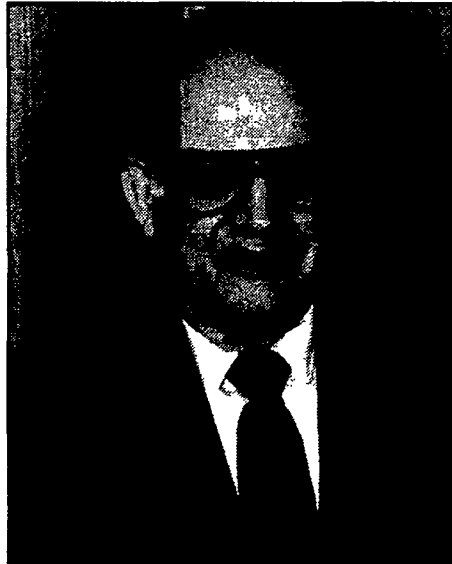
## Deacon Michael A. Laluppa, 82; served in Brighton parish

Deacon Michael A. Laluppa, MD, a permanent deacon assigned to St. Thomas More Church in Brighton, died Feb. 7, 1996, after a long illness. He was 82.

Deacon Laluppa, a Rochester native, obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees from Niagara University. He later graduated from the St. Louis University School of Medicine.

He was a member of medical staffs at three Rochester hospitals: St. Mary's, Genesee and Highland. He also served on several committees at St. Mary's and Highland, and earned many resident awards for his teaching achievements at St. Mary's and Highland.

In 1990, Deacon Laluppa was ordained to the diocesan permanent diaconate and also received a master's degree in theology from St. Bernard's In-



Deacon Michael A. Laluppa

stitute. He ministered at St. Thomas More Church during his entire tenure as deacon.

"He was always a very faith-filled person. When I first came here, I noticed that he was always actively involved," remarked Father Robert L. Collins, St. Thomas More's pastor since 1985.

Father Collins noted that Deacon Laluppa was equally attentive to the parish in his role as deacon, despite advancing age and the medical practice that he continued to maintain on a full-time basis.

"He was very careful and diligent in preparing his homilies," Father Collins said.

In addition to parish ministry, Deacon Laluppa was actively involved with St. Peter's Kitchen in Rochester. His service at St. Peter's included the launching

of a medical screening clinic for guests of the soup kitchen in 1990.

A funeral Mass for Deacon Laluppa was celebrated Feb. 10 at St. Thomas More Church. The Mass was concelebrated by Father Collins, who served as homilist, and Bishop Dennis W. Hickey. Interment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Deacon Laluppa is survived by his wife, Marjanne H. Crino, MD; daughter, Barbara; son, James; son and daughter-in-law, John and Jennifer; sisters, Frances Laluppa and Anne Scalea; sister and brother-in-law, Jane and Dr. Stephen Mayka; brother and sister-in-law, Paul and Judith Laluppa; brother-in-law, Michael Crino, and his wife, Frances; and several nieces and nephews.

—Mike Latona

## Sister Gemma Palermo, 73; helped students, sick

Sister Mary Gemma Palermo, RSM, died after a long illness Jan. 27, 1996, in the Sisters of Mercy's Lourdes Hall infirmary in Rochester. She was 73.

Sister Gemma was a teacher from 1944 to 1975 and later, a hospital minister. Born in Rochester, she was a parishioner at St. John the Evangelist and Corpus Christi parishes before entering the Mercy community in 1941. She observed her

50th jubilee in 1992.

Sister Gemma received an associate's degree from Nazareth Normal School in 1944 and later studied at St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester.

Schools where she taught included Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Holy Cross, and St. James, all in Rochester; St. Charles Borromeo, Greece; and St. Patrick's, Elmira.

From 1975 to 1989 she was a pastoral associate at St. Mary's and Rochester General hospitals, and also made visitations at Highland Hospital.

She later volunteered at Pinegrove Senior Center, Irondequoit; and the Senior Citizen Action Council and St. Ann's Home, both in Rochester.

In an interview for the Rochester RSM Newsletter, Sister Gemma described her ministry as very fulfilling and said, "The sick don't play games — they're open and ready to talk and share so much of themselves."

"She just loved her hospital ministry — she ate it up!" Sister Elaine Kolesnik, RSM, said. "Though illness and disability plagued her last few years, she made valiant efforts to overcome them — such patient endurance. Her family Christmas party in the infirmary was a happy highlight of these past few months."

Sister Gemma is survived by her brothers and sisters-in-law, Anthony and Mary Ann, and John and Mary; several nieces and nephews; a grandniece and grandnephews; and the Sisters of Mercy. Her funeral Mass was Jan. 29 in the Mercy Motherhouse chapel and burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Memorials may be sent to the Sisters of Mercy.

## Rita Austin; was devoted to seniors, varied causes

Rita Austin, a longtime parishioner at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Irondequoit, died Jan. 1, 1996, at her Irondequoit home. She was 80.

Mrs. Austin, a Rochester native, was a graduate of Sacred Heart School and St. Mary's School of Nursing. She was involved in several community activities and volunteered regularly at The Heritage, a senior citizen residence in Irondequoit.

Mrs. Austin was predeceased by her husband, Gerard; and granddaughter, Kathryn Michelle. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Margaret; son, James; daughter, Mary; daughter and son-in-law, Theresa and William Gibaud; brother, Raymond Tierney Jr.; sisters, Isabel Williams, Martha Kolb, Mary Dodd and Ann Oliver; grandchildren, Thomas and Charles; and several in-laws, nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass for Mrs. Austin was celebrated Jan. 6 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Donations in Mrs. Austin's name may be sent to the Sisters of Mercy Infirmary, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14610.

## William J. Curtin, Auburn native; 64

William J. Curtin Jr., 64, a native of Auburn and well-known corporate labor lawyer, died of cancer Dec. 19, 1995, at his home in Potomac, Md.

Curtin was chairman of the labor and employment law section of the national firm of Morgan, Lewis & Bockius. He also was chairman of the board of directors of Georgetown University and a recipient of the school's John Carroll Award and John Carroll Medal of Merit.

During his career, Curtin was involved in major labor-management disputes. In 1966 he represented the airline industry when a strike by the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers challenged Johnson Administration wage-

price guidelines. And in 1970 he was a special counsel to the new U.S. Postal Service, and worked on the first negotiations between it and the postal unions.

Curtin was also active in numerous professional and volunteer activities and groups, including the Knights of Malta, the Thomas More Society and the John Carroll Society.

Curtin was predeceased by his mother, Edith Murray Curtin, of Auburn. He is survived by his wife, Helen Bragg Curtin; two daughters, Helen Bragg Cleary and Caroline Curtin; two sons, William and Christopher; his father, W. Joseph Curtin, of Auburn; a brother, David; two grandchildren, and other relatives.

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