

Church supporter Bob Hope dies

Catholic News Service

LOS ANGELES — "One of my greatest joys is knowing that Bob Hope died as a Catholic," Los Angeles Cardinal Roger Mahony observed in a July 28 statement.

"Over the years I would invite him to join the church, but he would respond in his typical humor, 'My wife, Dolores, does enough praying to take care of both of us.' But eventually her prayers prevailed and he was baptized into the Catholic Church and was strengthened these past years through the regular reception of holy Communion."

Hope was 100 when he died July 27 at his home in Toluca Lake outside Los Angeles.

Although he did not become a Catholic until he was 93, the comic and actor was long associated with Catholic endeavors nationwide, often in partnership with his wife, a lifelong Catholic.

Hope's generosity was as long-lasting as his career.

He was one of 100 celebrities to



CNS file photo from NBC

Bob Hope is pictured in 1980 during a retrospective on the many overseas Christmas specials he did for U.S. servicemen and women.

contribute prizes on behalf of actor Don Ameche to help a 1949 building drive at Ameche's childhood parish, All Saints in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

In 1999, a half-century later, Bob and Dolores Hope matched actor

Obituaries

Paul Newman's \$250,000 donation to Catholic Relief Services to assist Kosovar refugees with a quarter-million dollars of their own.

In 1993, at age 90, Hope was chosen one of the 10 most admired American men in a poll of 10,000 readers of Good Housekeeping magazine. In 1999, Hope was selected as the top entertainment figure of the millennium in an ABC News telephone poll.

Hope also starred in nearly 50 movies, the last one being 1979's "The Muppet Movie." His best-remembered films are the "Road" epics in which he co-starred with Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour.

Hope received numerous awards as a testament to his long and successful career in radio, TV and movies, as well as his charitable works and his annual Christmas visits to entertain troops stationed overseas, from World War II

through the Persian Gulf War.

Among the scores of awards and honors Hope received were papal honors designating him as a Knight Commander of St. Gregory the Great.

With Hope, the jokes never stopped coming. At a 1965 testimonial dinner for Cardinal James McIntyre of Los Angeles, he said: "Being married to a Catholic is almost like being one. I had to go all the way to Vietnam to get meat on Friday."

And during one of Hope's grueling Vietnam tours, he attended a Christmas Mass celebrated by Cardinal Francis Spellman of New York — and promptly fell asleep. He approached the cardinal afterward and told him, "I'm sorry. I fell asleep at your Mass." Cardinal Spellman replied, "Don't worry. I saw your show at the Paramount and I fell asleep too."

Hope is survived by his wife of more than 69 years, Dolores; their four adopted children — Linda, Anthony, Nora and Kelly; and four grandchildren.

Deacon Michael Campanelli; served in Elmira

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

Deacon Michael J. Campanelli Jr., who served parishes in eastern Elmira throughout his diaconal ministry, died July 14, 2003, at his home following a long illness. He was 72 years old.

Deacon Campanelli was an Elmira native who grew up in St. Mary's Parish. After marrying his wife, Gilda, at age 18, he joined St. Anthony's Parish.

He was a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service for 10 years and in 1966 began a 23-year career as a loan officer and manager with Chemung Canal Trust Co. He volunteered with Family Debt Counseling

Service and was president of its board.

His penchant for guiding people through their problems led to the permanent diaconate, his wife said. "Even when we got married at 18, people were coming over for advice," Gilda Campanelli remarked.

Upon his 1986 ordination Deacon Campanelli began ministering part-time at St. John the Baptist/St. Cecilia parishes, which his family had joined in 1984. His duties increased following his 1989 retirement from the bank, and in 1990 his ministry expanded to Ss. Peter and Paul Parish when it was clustered with St. John/St. Cecilia.

Deacon Campanelli retired from

active ministry in 1995, yet he stayed involved in spite of being slowed by bad legs, diabetes and open-heart surgery. In 1992 he had begun a ministry in which he distributed prayer requests to shut-ins who prayed for people's intentions. He also continued his "From the Deacon's Corner" column for Ss. Peter and Paul Parish (St. Cecilia and St. John the Baptist had closed in 1998), writing inspirational messages and always signing off "Love you all, Deacon Mike."

"A year ago he lost use of his kidneys and was on dialysis. And he still ministered," Gilda Campanelli said.

The prayer ministry "reflected Deacon Mike's desire to continue

serving the Lord and his people to the best of his ability," said Father Patrick Connor, pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, who had ministered with Deacon Campanelli since 1992. The bulletin columns, Father Connor added, allowed the deacon "to stay connected and gave all of us a chance to benefit from his faith and goodness."

His 95-year-old father, Michael J. Campanelli Sr., had died in Florida just five days prior to Deacon Campanelli's own death. In addition to his wife, Deacon Campanelli is survived by his children, Steven (Jane), Daniel (Debbie) and Michael R. (fiancee Roseann Robbins) Campanelli; daughters, Laura (Kip) Lowe and Nancy (Michael) Murphy; sisters, Dolores Hamilton and Jean (Joseph) Spahalski; 12 grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and nieces and nephews.

His funeral Mass was celebrated July 17, 2003, at Ss. Peter and Paul Church. Father Joseph Hart, diocesan vicar general, presided, with Fathers Connor and Richard T. Farrell concelebrating, and Deacons Stanley Douglas and George Welch assisting. Interment was at Ss. Peter and Paul Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Parish Center Building Fund, Ss. Peter and Paul Church, 161 High St., Elmira, NY 14901.

Bernard Stanley Stukas; St. Joseph parishioner

Bernard Stanley Stukas, a parishioner of St. Joseph Church in Penfield, died June 22, 2003, after a brief illness. He was 80 years old.

Mr. Stukas was born in Binghamton on Feb. 20, 1923, to Anthony and Caroline (Degutis) Stukas.

He served as an instructor of electronics for the United States Navy from 1944-46 and received a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Rochester in 1945. He then worked for the following companies: General Electric as a sales

engineer; Industrial Electric Co. as a partner and vice president; Haloid Xerox as an engineer in charge of paper quality; Sterling Homex as chief electrical engineer; Barnard and Maybeck as a consulting engineer; and Eastman Kodak Co. as an electrical engineer, retiring from the company in 1988. He also completed electrical engineering plans for the University of Rochester's chapel.

At St. Joseph, he volunteered to give parishioners rides to doctors

appointments, visited patients at Monroe Community Hospital and house-sat during funerals. He also drove U of R foreign-exchange students to church during their stay in the U.S.

Mr. Stukas is survived by his wife of 49 years, Claire; a son, Philip; four daughters, Bernadette Stukas, Jacqueline (Peter) Tennenbaum, Michelle (Mark) Jablonski and Corinne Stukas; grandson, Alex; sister-in-law, Gina Stukas; and a nephew and nieces.

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