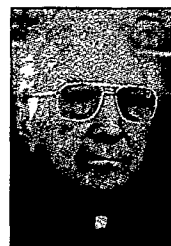


Fr. William Burns; was Elmira pastor

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

Father William A. Burns, pastor of St. Anthony's Parish in Elmira from 1953-77, died on Aug. 20, 2003, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira. He was 96.



Father Burns was born in Kansas City, Mo., but spent most of his childhood in Elmira. He grew up in St. Patrick's Parish in Elmira, attending its school as well as Ss. Peter and Paul School and Elmira Free Academy. He also studied at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries in Rochester and at Niagara University in Niagara Falls, N.Y.

Father Burns was ordained on June 10, 1933, by Bishop Emmet M. Walsh, bishop of Charleston, S.C., in St. Patrick's Cathedral in Rochester. He served as assistant pastor at St. Monica's Parish in Rochester from 1933-35; taught at Aquinas Institute in Rochester from 1935-36; and served as vice principal of Elmira Catholic High School from 1936-38, then as the school's principal from 1938-53.

In 1953, he was named pastor of St. Anthony's in Elmira, retiring in 1977. Early in his pastorate, he also taught Christian ethics at Elmira College. In a 1998 interview with the *Catholic Courier* for an article marking his 65th anniversary as a priest, Father Burns noted that when he first came to St. Anthony's, he was only supposed to fill in briefly until the Italian-American parish found an Italian priest.

"But I was not unfamiliar with the Elmira area, and I was welcomed

Obituaries

with that same warm-hearted Italian flavor," he said. "They changed my name to Father Bruno," he added with a chuckle. "It was a spiritual joy ride for 24 years."

At St. Anthony's, Father Burns also served as chaplain of the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Daughters of America of Elmira.

Following retirement, Father Burns moved to Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Elmira, and lived there until 1981 when he took up residence at St. James Church in Waverly. One of his closest friends there was the parish's secretary and bookkeeper from 1978-2002, Sharon Lovell. She said Father Burns knew the history of the Diocese of Rochester well and also knew how to make people laugh.

"He had a wonderful wit, a very dry sense of humor," Lovell said of Father Burns. "For many years, he used to be asked to emcee many priests' jubilee (celebrations)."

Father Burns is survived by several cousins, including Nancy (Michael) Yonko; Jeremiah (Rose) Keefe; Mary Catherine (John) Wright; and Mary Baker, all of Elmira; John (Sonya) Murphy of Rochester; Paul (Jean) O'Neill of Marco Island, Fla.; Julie (Burns) Sheehan of Florida; James Carden of Montana; and Janice Moir of Hawley, Pa.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark presided at a funeral Mass for Father Burns at St. Patrick's Church in Elmira on Aug. 22. Interment took place at Ss. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Elmira.

Sister Mary Veronica Kuhn, RSM

Mercy Sister Mary Veronica Kuhn died on Aug. 10, 2003, at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in Brighton. She was 85 years old.

Born Patricia Kuhn on Feb. 12, 1918, in Olean, N.Y., she was a member of St. Ann Parish in Hornell. She graduated from Hornell High School in 1935, received a bachelor's degree from Nazareth College in 1939 and received a master's degree from Duquesne University in 1940. Sister Kuhn entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1935 and professed her perpetual vows on Aug. 28, 1941.

From 1941 until her retirement in

1978, she taught Latin, English and history at Our Lady of Mercy High School. She served as a spiritual apostolate from 1978 until her death.

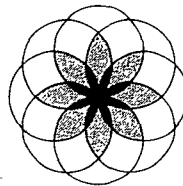
Sister Kuhn is survived by her sisters, Angelina Devlin and Rosemary Hamilton of Hornell; nieces and nephews; and the Sisters of Mercy.

Father Celestine Obi celebrated her funeral Mass on Aug. 13 at the motherhouse chapel. A graveside service followed, with interment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester. Contributions may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester, NY 14610.



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