

Father L. John Hedges, 85

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

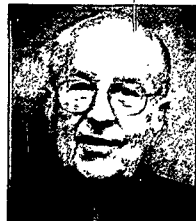
Father Leon John Hedges, who served as a priest of the Diocese of Rochester for more than 60 years, died on Jan. 16, 2004. He was 85.

A native of Hornell, Father Hedges was baptized and confirmed at St. Ann's Parish there. He attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries in Rochester, and was ordained on June 5, 1943.

Following ordination, Father Hedges served as assistant pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish in Ithaca from 1943-48. He worked there with Father John T. Walsh, currently priest-in-residence at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish in Brighton. Like the priest's other friends, Father Walsh said he would remember Father Hedges for his sense of humor.

"I suppose most of us will remember him as always joshing or kidding," Father Walsh said. "I use that word because while he loved to embarrass me, he was always cautious not to belittle anyone."

In 1948, Father Hedges was named assistant pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Brockport. Father William Graf, currently pastor of Church of the Res-



urrection in Fairport, served Mass for him there.

"Jack was a man of the church, describing the church as the people," Father Graf

said. "All were welcome into the community. Jack would be most hospitable in welcoming anyone at any time."

Father Graf added that Father Hedges was a boon to his fellow priests.

"He helped us laugh at ourselves and some of the situations we had to deal with," Father Graf said. "Jack's laughter could take away the sting of hurt and frustration."

Both Fathers Walsh and Graf pointed out that Father Hedges had a deeply serious side, and counseled many a parishioner.

"He was always reading, going to conferences, and trying to learn so that he could preach better or become a better pastoral counselor," Father Graf said.

In 1951, Father Hedges was named assistant pastor of Old St. Mary's Parish in Rochester. Then, in 1963, he was named chaplain of the University of Rochester's Newman Commu-



nity. He held that position he held until 1968, when he was appointed to his first pastorate at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Greece. While at St. Charles, he concurrently served as diocesan consultant, appointed first in 1972 and again in 1977.

In 1978, Father Hedges was named pastor of St. Helen's Parish in Gates, where he remained until his retirement in 1988. Following retirement, he lived at St. Joseph's Parish in Penfield, and then at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in Brighton.

Father Hedges is survived by his nieces and nephews, Mary Sue Kenerson, Bob (Deborah) Hedges, Anne (Andy) Senesac, Joanie (Jim) Holtkamp, Maureen (Bill) Olsen and Janine (Dave) McFall; and the Sisters of Mercy.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark celebrated a funeral Mass for Father Hedges at St. Joseph's in Penfield on Jan. 19. Interment took place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Sisters of Mercy of Americas, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester, NY 14610.

Father Richard Schiefen, CSB, 71

Basilian Father Richard John Schiefen, 71, died Nov. 14, 2003, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston, Texas.

A native of Rochester, Father Schiefen graduated from Aquinas Institute in 1950 and entered the local Basilian Fathers' Novitiate, pro-

fessing his vows in 1951. After attending St. Basil's Seminary and St. Michael's College in Toronto, he was ordained in 1961 and taught at Aquinas for one year before beginning theological studies. Following graduate studies, he taught at St. Michael's College and at the Univer-

sity of St. Thomas in Houston, where he also served as dean of the School of Theology and vice president of academic affairs.

Father Schiefen was predeceased by his parents, Joseph and Loretta Miller Schiefen, and his brother, Joseph. He is survived by his sister-in-law, Josephine Schiefen; his nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews; and his confreres in the Congregation of St. Basil.

His funeral liturgy was celebrated in St. Anne's Church in Houston on Nov. 18, 2003, by Bishop Joseph Fiorenza of the Galveston-Houston Diocese; Father Kenneth Decker, superior general of the Basilian Fathers; and Father Dennis Andrews. Burial was at the Basilian Plot at Forest Park Lawndale Cemetery, Houston.

Sister Lucille Lenhard, RSM, 77

Sister of Mercy Lucille Lenhard, 77, died Jan. 8, 2004, at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in Brighton.

Sister Lenhard, a native of Rochester, graduated from Our Lady of Mercy High School in 1945. She entered the congregation that year and professed vows in 1951. She received a bachelor's degree in education from Nazareth College and a master's degree, also in education, from Catholic University.

She taught at St. Charles, St. Thomas, St. James, Annunciation, St. Helen and St. John the Evangelist schools, all in Rochester. She was principal of St. Salome School from 1972-75. She also served as religious-education coordinator at St. Salome

and Our Lady of Lourdes parishes in Rochester and Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Elmira. She later was a teacher aide at Wilson Commencement Park in Rochester.

Sister Lenhard is survived by her sisters, Betty Ann Lenhard and Mary Jane (Richard) Baumann; her brothers, Bill (Barbara) Lenhard and Gerard Lenhard; nieces and nephews; and her sisters in the congregation.

Her funeral liturgy was celebrated in the motherhouse chapel by Father James Boyle on Jan. 15 with burial at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Memorials may be sent to the Sisters of Mercy, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester, NY 14610.

WILLIAM MORONEY, AUBURN NATIVE

William J. Moroney, 74, of Wenham, Mass., died Dec. 16, 2003, following a brief illness.

Mr. Moroney was a native of Auburn and attended Port Byron Central School. He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Niagara University, a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Syracuse University and a master's degree in physics from Northeastern University.

In the Korean War, he received a battlefield promotion to first lieutenant and was awarded the Silver Star and Bronze Star.

Mr. Moroney was predeceased by his sister, Marie C. Fox, and his brother, John (Jack) Moroney. He is survived by his wife, Josephine Balloni Moroney, also of Auburn; his sons, Dr. Paul (Jean) Moroney, Encinitas, Calif.; John (Sandra) Moroney, Esq., West Peabody, Mass.; his sister, Frances (Clark) Whited, Brockport, N.Y.; his sister-in-law, Mary Jean Moroney, Morgantown, W. Va.; and his grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

His funeral liturgy was celebrated Dec. 22 in Topsfield, Mass., with burial in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Fleming, N.Y.

Memorials may be made to St. Rose of Lima Church, 12 Park St., Topsfield, MA 01983; Niagara University, Niagara Falls, NY 14109; or Hospice of the North Shore, 10 Elm St., Danvers, MA 01923.

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