

Obituaries

Father Robert J. Miller, rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral

Father Robert J. Miller, rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral, died on Thursday, Feb. 25, 1988, after a short illness.

Father Miller, the son of Harold and Agnes Miller, was born in Auburn on July 13, 1930. After being graduated from



Auburn's East High School, he prepared for priesthood at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. Bishop Lawrence B. Casey ordained Father Miller to the priesthood at St. Mary's Church, Auburn, on June 16, 1956.

Father Miller served as associate pastor at Good Shepherd, Henrietta; St. Margaret Mary's, Irondequoit; St. Mary's, Elmira; St. Stephen's, Geneva; and St. Andrew's Rochester. In 1973, Father Miller returned to Good Shepherd as co-pastor and remained there until he was named rector of the cathedral in June, 1980. He also served on the Diocesan Priests'

Council, the Personnel Board, the editorial staff of the *Courier-Journal*, and as regional coordinator for the Northwest Region of Monroe County.

Father Miller's name was invariably mentioned whenever the diocese was looking for someone to help address a challenging problem. He possessed an innate pastoral sensitivity characterized by a compassionate spirit toward all who sought his spiritual care. At the same time, he had the ability to gather people together in genuine communities of faith. Father Miller was endowed with a sharp mind

and particularly enjoyed repartee with fellow priests.

Father Miller kept hidden his many acts of generosity. Since his death, many anonymous personal acts of charity have surfaced. He enabled more than one child to attend Catholic High School by subsidizing their tuition.

In Sacred Heart Cathedral's August 2, 1987, bulletin, Father Miller wrote the following to his parishioners: "Usually the Rector's Column contains my observations on parish items or programs, or sometimes personal reflections on the Sunday Scriptures or holiday season. Today the Rector's Column is about the rector himself."

"A persistent cough over the past few months led to a chest X-ray, then to a biopsy of the lungs, with the consequent diagnosis of malignant cancer in both lungs and in the liver, stemming probably from the colon area. At the present time, I am much at peace, spiritually and psychologically, and expect to continue the full load of responsibilities as long as possible. I share my condition with you, my parish family, partly to set the record straight, but mostly to seek your prayers, not pity. In the meantime, 'let it be business as usual.'"

Father Miller literally continued his priestly business in a most astonishing manner until the Lord called him home last Thursday morning.

He is survived by his father, Harold Miller, and a brother, Donald Miller.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark celebrated a special Mass for Father Miller at the cathedral on Sunday evening, Feb. 28, and the Mass of Christian Burial on Monday morning, Feb. 29. Burial was in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Auburn.

Father John S. Maloney, honored for WWII heroism

Father John S. Maloney, pastor emeritus of St. Catherine of Siena Church, Ithaca, died in Ithaca on Friday, Feb. 26, 1988. Father Maloney, who died of cancer, would have been 76 next month.

The son of John and Anna Maloney, Father Maloney was born in Elmira on March 17, 1912. After being graduated from Elmira Southside High School, he attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. Father Maloney was ordained to the priesthood June 6, 1936, by Archbishop Edward Mooney in ceremonies at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

He served as associate pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church, Rochester; St. Patrick's, Elmira; Immaculate Conception, Ithaca; St. Margaret Mary's, Irondequoit; and Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira. During 1947-48, he was spiritual director of St. Bernard's Seminary. In



1959, he was appointed pastor of St. Mary of the Lake, Ontario, and served as administrator/pastor of Immaculate Conception, Ithaca, from 1960-1975. From 1975 until his retirement in 1982, Father Maloney was pastor of St. Catherine of Siena, Ithaca. During his many years of pastoral work, Father Maloney was a member of the Priests' Council, a Synodal Judge on the Tribunal, and deanery moderator of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

After enlisting enlisted as a chaplain in the U.S. Army in 1942, Father Maloney volunteered to serve as a chaplain with the 506th Paratroop Infantry. As a member of the 101st Airborne, he parachuted into France with the troops on D-Day, preceding the ground troops' assault. Father Maloney carried Mass wine in his canteen and a supply of hosts in his pyx.

For heroism in battle, Father Maloney received the Distinguished Service Cross, the army's second-highest award for gallantry in action, from General Omar Bradley on July

13, 1944.

During the Battle of the Bulge, Father Maloney was wounded twice — once in the shoulder and once in the arm — while administering the sacraments to men in battle. For his actions, Father Maloney was awarded the Purple Heart. He also received the Presidential Citation and was received into the Legion of Valor in 1964, after nomination by classmate Father Elmer W. Heindl, who also holds a Distinguished Service Cross.

Father Maloney is survived by his sisters, Martha Hennessy, Eleanor Negro and Sister Kathleen Maloney, SSJ; sisters-in-law Marianne Maloney and Helen Maloney; and several nieces and nephews.

Mass of Christ the High Priest was celebrated on Tuesday evening, March 1, at St. Catherine of Siena Church, Ithaca, at 8 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, also at St. Catherine's. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Ithaca.

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