

Rites Set Today For Msgr. Bolen

Msgr. John P. Bolen, who died Thursday, was pastor of Basilica of the Sacred Heart since 1953 and served 40 years in the priesthood.

Edge Grove—A solemn high mass of requiem will be held at 11 o'clock this morning in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart for the pastor, Rt. Rev. Msgr. John P. Bolen, a priest for 40 years, who died at 1 a.m. Thursday at the rectory. He was 66.

The Most Rev. George L. Leech, bishop of the Harrisburg diocese will be celebrant and Rt. Rev. Msgr. Mary's seminary, Emmitsburg, Md. will serve as assistant priest.

Deacons of honor will be Rt. Rev. Msgr. Maurice Roche, pastor of St. Agnes church, Baltimore, and Rt. Rev. Msgr. Carl B. Brady, pastor of St. Rose of Lima church, York. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Rodney Hemler, chancellor of the Altoona diocese, will be the deacon of the mass and Rev. Joseph Braubitz, pastor of St. Andrew's church, Waynesboro, will be sub-deacon.

The sermon will be delivered by Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph Schmidt, vicar general of the Harrisburg diocese, and the Rev. David McAndrew, secretary to Bishop Leech, will be master of ceremonies. The mass will be sung by the priests' choir of the Harrisburg diocese directed by Rev. Vincent Smith. Burial will be in the priests' circle of Conewago chapel cemetery.

A son of the late John T. and Ellen Jane Kane Bolen, he is survived by a sister, Mrs. Gilbert Aumiller, Ohio, and a number of nieces and nephews. Msgr. Bolen had been ill during the past year.

Msgr. Bolen received his early schooling at St. Patrick's cathedral, Harrisburg; Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament grade school, Harrisburg, and the former Harrisburg Catholic High school. He attended Mt. St. Mary's college and seminary, Emmitsburg, Md., and St. Paul's seminary, St. Paul, Minn.

He was ordained to the priesthood May 29, 1926, at St. Patrick's cathedral by the late Bishop Philip R. McDevitt.

He then became assistant pastor of St. Ignatius parish, Centralia, and later served the same capacity at St. James parish, Steelton. In July, 1927, he was appointed chaplain at Villa Sacred Heart and the Academy of Saints Cyril and Methodius, Danville.

Msgr. Bolen was made pastor of St. Patrick's church, Trevorton, on Jan. 4, 1945, and during his pastorate there, the church was renovated completely. On Aug. 25, 1953, he became pastor of Sacred Heart chapel, Conewago, and during his pastorate here, the historic church was elevated to the rank of minor basilica.

Conewago is one of the oldest parishes in the United States, having been established in 1730. He was appointed a domestic prelate with the title the Right Reverend Monsignor by the late Pope John XXIII on March 10, 1962. He served as professor of liturgy at Mt. St. Mary's seminary from 1953-63 and was con-

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sidered an authority on sacred liturgy and local history.

He contributed numerous articles on the long history of his parish and community and others on pastoral and liturgical subjects to ecclesiastical journals. Msgr. Bolen served as liturgy expert for the nationally published magazine, "Ecclesiastical Review," and authored the book, "Masses for the Dead."

He wrote the history of St. James church, Trevorton, and was gathering extensive material on the history of Conewago chapel and the entire area, intending to write an entire history of Conewago.