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Rev. J. Eugene Kane

By The News-Gazette

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The Reverend J. Eugene Kane, 82, of Champaign died at 8:50 a.m. Tuesday (July 28, 2009) at Heartland Healthcare Center, 309 E. Springfield Ave., Champaign.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Friday at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 708 W. Main St., Urbana. Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C. of the Peoria Diocese will officiate. Burial will be at Holy Sepulcher Cemetery, Rantoul, where his parents and sister, Grace Ann are buried.

A Rosary service will be held at St. Patrick's at 4:30 p.m. Thursday. Public visitation will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday at the church. On Friday at 10 a.m. there will be a private visitation for the clergy and family only at St. Patrick's. At 11 a.m. the funeral Mass that is open to the public will be held in the church. A luncheon immediately following will take place in the St. Patrick's parish hall. Owens Funeral Home, Champaign, is in charge of arrangements.

Rev. J. Eugene Kane was born on June 6, 1927, in Rantoul, a son of James F. Kane and Mabel F. Fiedler.

Survivors include two living sisters, Mrs. Virginia Skelton of Champaign; Sr. Mary Helen Kane of The Sisters of St. Joseph, St. Louis, Mo.; 10 nieces and nephews; and 21 grand-nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by an older sister, Grace Ann, and an older brother, Donald V. Kane.

Rev. Kane attended Holy Cross grade school, Champaign, and graduated from St. Bede Academy, Peru, Ill., in 1945. After two years at Holy Cross College in Worcester, Mass., he entered St. Mary of the Lake Seminary at Mundelein and was ordained at St. Mary's Cathedral, Peoria, on June 6, 1954.

His appointments included St. Patrick's, Ottawa, from 1954 to 1959; St. Patrick's, Peoria, from 1959 to 1962; Bergan High School (now Notre Dame High School), Peoria, from 1962 to 1966; St. Patrick's, Elkhart, from 1966 to 1974; St. Mary's Cathedral, Peoria, from 1974 to 1978; St. Pius X, Rock Island, from 1978 to 1990; and St. Mary's, El Paso, from 1990 to 1994. Because of ill health he was forced to retire in 1994, but he continued to work part time at St. Patrick's in Urbana from 1994 to 2009. He had served 28 years as a pastor.

During his ministry he spent many years on the priest's Senate of the Diocese, active in the Cursillo Movement, the Catholic Inter-racial Council of Peoria, Pre-Canva Conferences. He taught for 14 years in Diocesan High Schools, Marquette, Ottawa; The Academy of Our Lady, Peoria; Bergan High, Peoria, and the Ursuline Academy in Springfield.

Fr. Kane was a talented musician, playing the piano and organ, as well as an amateur artist. He founded adult choirs in four of the parishes he served, as well as directed the Cathedral choir in a substitute capacity. He was always interested in Catechetics, and attended Loyola University in Chicago during the summers of 1962 to 1969 to acquire a M.A. in Religious Education, and always taught in the CCD programs in the parishes for which he was pastor.

Condolences may be offered at www.owensfuneralhomes.com