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Rev. James T. Bartnik, served two parishes at same time

Aug 29, 2013

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Aug. 8, 1947 – Aug. 27, 2013

The Rev. James T. Bartnik, a priest who was concurrently the pastor of two Buffalo churches before he retired in 2009, died Tuesday in Autumn View Health Care Facility, Hamburg. He was 66.

Born in Buffalo, he was a graduate of Bishop Turner High School. He was a graduate of Wadhams Hall Seminary College, Ogdensburg, and attended St. Bernard Seminary, Rochester.

Father Bartnik was ordained in 1975 in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Syracuse and was assigned to Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Utica that same year.

Starting in the mid-1970s, he served as an associate pastor at various local churches, including St. John Kanty and St. Casimir in Buffalo, St. Joseph in North Tonawanda and St. John Gualbert in Cheektowaga.

He joined the Buffalo Diocese in 1982 and served as an administrator at St. Mary's Parish in Eden in 2005 and became pastor in 2006.

Father Bartnik served as pastor of both St. Teresa Parish, 1974 Seneca St., and St. John the Evangelist Parish, 2315 Seneca St., in 2008, the year before he was forced to retire for health reasons.

He was a member of the Polish Clergy Association and chaplain for Rescue Hose Company No. 1, 20 Pine Ridge Road, Cheektowaga.

In 2003, Father Bartnik was named Moderator of the Year by the Diocesan Union of Holy Name Societies.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 10 a.m. Saturday in St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, 123 Townsend St.