

Msgr. Kiernan, Annunciation Founder, Dies

Msgr. William Kiernan, who organized Annunciation Parish in Green Bay and headed it as



pastor for 31 years prior to 1963, died today in a local hospital.

He would have been 73 on April 29 and had been an active priest in the Green

Bay Diocese for more than half a century.

For the past four years he had been pastor of St. Sebastian's at Isaar, near Seymour.

Msgr. Kiernan was managing director of the Columbus Community Club when he was appointed pastor of the new Annunciation Parish by Bishop Paul P. Rhode in 1932. Father Kiernan organized the parish and remained as pastor there until relieved at his own request in June, 1963.

He was named a domestic prelate with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor by Pope Pius XII in 1949.

Father Kiernan was born in Ashland, April 29, 1894, and graduated from Oconto High School. He attended the University of Wisconsin and St. Norbert College, where he was a student when World War I interrupted his education.

Enlisting in the Navy, Father Kiernan served for 18 months, being discharged as a chief yeoman.

He then entered St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, and was ordained there by the late Archbishop Sebastian G. Messmer for the Green Bay Diocese on May 21, 1921. In the next few years he served as an assistant at St. Patrick's Church here, at St. Stephen's in Stevens Point and St. Mary's, Appleton.

In 1926 Father Kiernan was named first diocesan director of charities and the following year director of Holy Name Societies. Following an assignment to St. Mary's, Glenmore, he was made managing director of the Columbus Community Club in 1930.

In addition to his pastoral duties at Annunciation, Msgr. Kiernan was made a diocesan consultor in 1939 and a member of the diocesan building committee in 1945.

The body is at the Coad Funeral Home. Arrangements will be announced Thursday.