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Lawrence R. Overbaugh

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McSHERRYSTOWN — Monsignor Lawrence R. Overbaugh, 78, a priest of the Diocese of Harrisburg, entered into God's eternal care Saturday, Feb. 23, 2008, at the home of his sister, Marie A. Smith.

Born in McSherrystown on Dec. 13, 1929, he was a son of the late J. Clarence and Helen C. (Topper) Overbaugh.

Msgr. Overbaugh was a member of the class of 1947 of Delone Catholic High School in McSherrystown, and a graduate of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia. He also received his Master of Education degree from Villanova University.

Ordained to the priesthood by the late Bishop George L. Leech on May 28, 1955, at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Harrisburg, and honored with the title of Monsignor in November 1972, he served as associate pastor at St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Lancaster, and Church of Our Lady, Mount Carmel. He

also served as principal of Lebanon Catholic High School and of Mount Carmel Catholic High School, and was director of the Mission Board of the Diocese of Harrisburg.

He was assistant pastor at St. Edward's Parish in Shamokin; Church of Our Lady; St. Joseph Parish, Locust Dale; SS Cyril & Methodius, Lebanon, and St. Patrick Parish, Harrisburg. He was the spiritual director and professor of Lebanon Catholic High School, and was in residence at St. Paul's Parish, Annville. Pastoral assignments included St. Lawrence Parish, Harrisburg; Immaculate Conception Parish, New Oxford; Church of Our Lady; administrator pro tem of St. Monica Parish, Sunbury, and post-retirement residence at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, McSherrystown, where he celebrated daily Mass, visited the sick, and spent time helping in the parish school.

Some of the offices Msgr. Overbaugh held were, Scout chaplain in the Lancaster Area; secretary and executive secretary of the Mission Board of the Diocese of Harrisburg; secretary-treasurer of the Priest's Advisory Council, member of Diocesan Cemetery Board; member of the Diocesan Ad Hoc Committee on Catholic Education; member of Diocesan Council of Administration; member of Diocesan Committee for Aid to Needy Parishes, and was on the Board of Directors for the Harrisburg Catholic Publishing Associates.

On Oct. 19, 1972, Msgr. Overbaugh was appointed honorary prelate to His Holiness Pope Paul VI.

An Eagle Scout, he was an active supporter of the Boy Scouts. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, and enjoyed music, reading, golfing, swimming and outdoor activities.

Surviving are three brothers, Philip J. Overbaugh of Hanover, Msgr. Hugh A. Overbaugh of Harrisburg, and Joseph C. Overbaugh of Lancaster; eight sisters, Mary Clare Weaver of McSherrystown, Elaine M. Pace of Van Nuys, Calif., Jean T. Heidler of York, Constance A. Keffer of Amelia Island, Fla., Marie A. Smith of McSherrystown, Rosemary E. Cook of Lancaster, Joyce C. Groft of McSherrystown, and Sheila M. Hennessy of Shepherdstown, W.V.; numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Jerome E. Overbaugh and Bernard F. Overbaugh, and a sister, Charlotte "Patty" Overbaugh.

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OVERBAUGH — Monsignor Lawrence R. Overbaugh, 78, of McSherrytown. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Annunciation Catholic Church, 26 N. Third St., McSherrystown, with the Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of the Diocese Of Harrisburg, concelebrating with Msgr. Hugh A. Overbaugh, the Rev. Lawrence Sherdel, Msgr. Vincent Topper, the

Rev. Dr. Charles Jerome Topper, as well as the priests of the diocese. Deacons Joseph Lawrence and Richard Weaver will assist. Burial will be in Annunciation Cemetery, McSherrystown. Relatives and friends will be received from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, at Annunciation Church, McSherrystown, with Mass of Transferal at 7 p.m. with his brother Msgr. Hugh Overbaugh, the Rev. Lawrence Sherdel concelebrating, and Deacon Joseph Lawrence as homilist. Visitation will also be from 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesday at the church. Serving as pallbearers will be David C. Smith, Gregory Day, Spencer Topper, Lawrence H. Weaver, Dalton Smith, and Matthew Overbaugh. Memorial contributions in honor of Msgr. Overbaugh may be made to Annunciation Church Memorial Fund, 26 N. Third St., McSherrystown 17344, or Church of Our Lady, 47 S. Market St., Mount Carmel 17851. Murphy Funeral Home Inc., McSherrystown, has charge of arrangements.

Published by The News Item on Feb. 25, 2008.



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21 Entries

Monsignor was such a wonderful priest and friend to our family. He always had that smile on his face. I could not begin to tell of all the fond memories but there are a few things that stand out to me.

He knew everyone's name. He even knew who was related to whom. New Oxford has many large families and he always knew how everyone was related and who you were. He always had time to say hello, and new your interests and hobbies.

I was lucky enough to even have him bless me with many of my sacraments. Not only did he bless me with sacraments he shared his wisdom. Once a friend, forever a friend.

He really showed his parishoners how to enjoy living the life of God. He could be seen outside planting flowers and weeding. He participated in all of the community events. He could be seen enjoying the flea market, walking the carnival grounds and enjoying wedding receptions with families. One could say he was a great example of a true parish priest.

As a child I have my funniest memory of my Grandfather telling Monsignor "you need to remember to keep it short and sweet, after a while you lose us." Monsignor simply smiled and said he'd try to do better next week, laughing all the while. On the more serious side, when my cousin died very suddenly-I opened my Grandparents door within minutes of his accident, Monsignor having been notified and he was at the door immediately that morning. His whole presence gave quiet comfort at a horrendous time. I think that he was the only one my Grandfather raised his head to look at that day.

I will miss seeing him in the halls at the hospital. I will never forget the smile on his face when he gave last rights on returning from his "stroke". I am sad that my son will come home from scout camp and not say "guess who said mass, you know him". I am happy to say when I watch a Penn State game I will shout for the two of us. Finally, I would say he was resting with the Lord. We all know better, he is working with the Lord. God Bless all of your family, after all God did bless the rest of us with Monsignor's presence.

Sandy Bladen

March 19, 2008

Monsignor Overbaugh was a dear friend of my family for many years. He was my grandmother's neighbor growing up on Ridge Avenue in McSherrystown.

Monsignor performed my baptism, first penance, first holy communion, and confirmation at Immaculate Conception. Unfortunately, he was not living in the area when I got married so he could not perform the ceremony.

Two years ago he came back to Immaculate Conception parish and baptized my son. I can remember sitting with him and telling him how much that meant to me. He was there for many important events in my life.

Monsignor truly was a wonderful man who was there for my family through many hard times. He will be missed.

Mandy Campbell

March 15, 2008

Our condolences to the Overbaugh family at the passing of Monsignor Overbaugh: Chaplain, Eagle Scout, and friend. The Scouts and Scouters, past and present, of Troop 107 will surely miss him. Last Spring at the Blue & Grey District Camporall, Father Overbaugh came out to Latimore Valley and celebrated Mass with the Catholic Scouts and Scouters. Although his service to Scouting stretched over his entire life, very few of us knew this would be the last time we saw Father at his best. He truly enjoyed Scouting and Scouting gave it back in return. We will miss you and look forward to our time together at that great campfire in the sky. Once an Eagle; Always an Eagle!

Brian Sirois

March 8, 2008

When I was a lad in Our Lady's Grade School in Mount Carmel, you were my choir director. Forty years later I knocked on the door at Our Lady's rectory. You answered and recognized me immediately. I will never forget this. You were truly a great old school priest and a tremendous influence who taught by example. Requiescat in pace.

Tony Sullivan

March 7, 2008

Mgrs. kept me in line at mt. carmel catholic high

dr. stevan anselmi

March 5, 2008

Father you will never be forgotten as you were always there for me when I needed you .I could never thank you enough.May the Lord be with you . Rita

Rita Cruz

March 4, 2008

My sincere sympathy to the family. Father was a truly gentle soul, and never failed to accept an invitation to our class reunions. The Class of '65 from MCCHS will miss him greatly.

Dolores Meister Swaldi

February 29, 2008

It's always difficult to loose a loved one. My sympathy and prayers are with you.

Cindy Rider Tavares

February 27, 2008

Msgr(Father Larry)Overbaugh,

An amazing priest and all around gentle-man. Although lovingly received in Heaven, he will surely be missed by so many of us here on Earth.

May his spirit enjoy true peace and happiness forever in Heaven with all of the Angels, Saints and Souls of Heaven.

Connie Ernst

February 27, 2008

My sympathy to the Overbaugh family. Monsignor was a wonderful person and a very good friend of my mother. I will always remember his kindness

Jim Albertini

February 27, 2008

Words cannot express the sorrow felt with the loss of this wonderful man. Monsignor's calling as a Priest was always evident in his actions as he visited with the sick or grieving families and when he celebrated with families after weddings and Baptisms. He ALWAYS had time for people.

I always teased my mother that she thought Monsignor Overbaugh could "walk on water", because in her eyes he could do no wrong!

He supported my family during tears of joy and tears of sadness over the past 30 years.

I will miss his teasing manner, smiling eyes, and gracious demeanor. My family cherishes the time we were able to spend with Monsignor during the Christmas holidays. We send our thoughts, prayers, and heartfelt sympathies...

Faron, Anita (Smith) & Kathleen Geigley
Spartanburg, SC

Anita Geigley

February 26, 2008

Please accept my deepest sympathy. Msgr. was a great man.

Rebecca Thorpe

February 26, 2008

Our deepest sympathies to the whole Overbaugh family. Msgr. was our pastor at St. Lawrence quite some time ago. We will remember all of you in our prayers.

John & Anna May Egresitz-Weiss

February 26, 2008

I was so sorry to hear of your loss. The thoughts of many are with you at this time of sorrow.

February 26, 2008

My sincerest sympathy goes to your family. I have only happy thoughts and pleasant memories of you while I attended Our Lady's of Mt. Carmel High School. While here on earth, you touched so many people in a positive way. I know you walked in God's light then and you do now. I will forever keep you in my prayers.

Judith Paul-Bechtel

February 26, 2008

As a graduate of MCCH class of '65, Fr. Overbaugh will always be held in my mind as a young, dedicated priest who inspired a great many young people with his love of service to others.

Though I left Mt. Carmel after graduation, my mother has always kept me updated about my teachers and classmates, including Fr. Overbaugh, who always seemed to remember many of the names of those he'd taught over the years.

May God grant him eternal happiness.

David Skocik

February 26, 2008

My thoughts and prayers are with you in your time of grief. May your memories bring you comfort. Mount Carmel Catholic High Class of 1965.

Dennis Procopio

February 26, 2008

I remember Father Overbaugh as an amazingly gracious person in situations that would probably throw most people off kilter. I was going into my senior year in Mount Carmel Catholic High School when it merged with Our Lady of Lourdes in Shamokin (1964). OLOL was our arch-rival in football, and we were very unhappy about the merger. Plus, they were sending us a new principal, some Father Overbaugh, for the three upper grades that were to remain in Mount Carmel that first year. We were not exactly receptive to the idea. He won us over just by being the gracious and friendly person that he was -- no bribes, threats, or promises. When news of a transfer came somewhere near the end of the year (don't remember the details), we were upset, but threw him a party with a theme song sung to the tune of the Irish song, "Harrigan."

We sang, O-V-E-R-B-A-U-G-H spells Overbaugh.

We're mighty proud that we can call him father.

There's not another one that we would rather. . . .

[Maybe a classmate who remembers all the words will sign on here.]

After graduation, we kept in touch. On his way to Villanova in 1966, he stopped to visit me and a classmate, Barbara, in Willow Grove, and he got another opportunity to be his gracious self in an awkward situation. My nosy landlady always spied on any visitors coming through the hall, opening her apartment door enough for a one-eye view. Well, her yackety little dog burst out and grabbed Father Overbaugh by the cuff. The dog growled and bounced around and wagged his head. Father Overbaugh just stood patiently till the landlady detached the dog from the

cloth. She was all but banging her head on the floor with apologies. Of course, she was calmly forgiven.

Barbara and I didn't want Father Overbaugh to know we had started smoking, so we hid the ashtrays under the chairs in my living room, which was at the top of the stairs in an attic apartment. There was a banister along the stairs. It did not occur to us that the ashtrays would be visible as he walked up the stairs. He paused halfway up, his eyes level with the floor, and grinned. He said something like, "If you're trying to fool me by hiding the ashtrays under the chairs, I can see them from right here."

Father Overbaugh was a good man and a blessing to our senior year.

Geraldine Glodek

February 25, 2008

May God welcome him with open arms and forever keep him close at hand. Monsignor was a very close friend of my mother, Phyllis, all the while he was at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

Sue & Jerry Albertini

February 25, 2008

Msgr. Overbaugh's family

a truly holy man.

I knew him as a child and have such warm, fond memories

Blanche McAndrew Harman

February 25, 2008

Accept my deepest synpathy. Monsignor was at Mt. Carmel Catholic when I was a student and he was loved by all.

Mary Teresa Ryniak

February 25, 2008

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