

Rev. Dranka Dies at 65; Helped Growth of Parish

The Rev. Eugene Dranka, MS, 65, former pastor of St. Stanislaus Church here, died Monday in Hartford, Conn., after a long illness. He was born in Three Rivers, Mass., son of the late Adalbert and Mary Dranka. He attended Three Rivers Schools and was a graduate of Palmer High School, Palmer, Mass. He entered the LaSalette Preparatory Seminary in 1933, and made his novitiate from 1938 to 1939. He was professed as a missionary of La Salette Feb. 7, 1939, then entered La Salette Seminary in Altamont, N.Y., and was ordained to the priesthood June 3, 1944 and graduated from the seminary in 1945.

His first assignment was as assistant pastor in St. Patrick's Church, Lufkin, Texas, then he came to Nashua as pastor of St. Stanislaus Church in June, 1947, and served until 1960 when he was assigned as pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Westfield, Mass. In 1964, he was assigned as pastor of St. Adalbert's Church in Bondsville, Mass., where he served until January when he resigned because of ill health.

Father Dranka's stay in Nashua was a memorable one and his accomplishments were many. In his early years here, through his guidance and spiritual leadership, the church, rectory and sisters' convent were renovated. Pulaski Park was improved and St. Stanislaus Cemetery was completely landscaped. He established the first legal bingo game in the state. He started the St. Stanislaus Kindergarten in 1948 and was instrumental in the formation of the St. Stanislaus Ladies Guild and directed the Parish Golden Jubilee in 1958.

He is survived by two brothers: Stephen Dranka of Palmer, and Stanley Dranka of Bondsville, Mass.; a sister, Mrs. Sophie Kazemekas of Three Rivers; several nieces and nephews.

A concelebrated Mass was held this morning at the LaSalette Seminary in Hartford, by his Brothers Religious.

Father Dranka will lie in state at the St. Adalbert's Rectory tonight from 7 to 9, and Wednesday from 2 to 4



REV. EUGENE DRANKA

p.m. The body will be transferred to the church at 5, and a Scriptural Wake Service will be celebrated at 7.

A concelebrated Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 10 Thursday morning. Bishop Christopher J. Weldon, D.D., Bishop of Springfield, will preside.

Burial will take place in the family lot at St. Anne's Cemetery, Three Rivers.

Diploma

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Pauline Anderson submitted a petition with an undetermined amount of student signatures supporting David Clements as track coach at Nashua High School.

In April, the school board athletic committee decided to put Clements under probation and the decision on whether to approve a new coaching contract with him would be made at a later date.

With new business, Mrs. Caroline Zechel submitted an initial proposal to integrate some retarded children into public school classes although she requested that no action be taken until some further studies are made.

During the question and answer period which follows each school board meeting, Rep. Gerry Parker, R-Nashua, spoke on behalf of high school hockey coach George Marineau saying "he is one of the finest people I have ever known." The school board is also in the process of determining whether it will rehire Marineau as coach for the next season.