



MSGR. V. V. STANCELEWSKI

County Dean Of Priests Dead At 70

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Vincent V. Stancelewski, dean of Lawrence County priests, is dead.

Msgr. Stancelewski, 70, pastor and founder of SS Philip and James Church for 42 years, died at 1:45 p.m. yesterday in St. Francis Hospital after a short illness.

He was keenly aware of the need to bring about a better understanding among the various faiths in the community. For his humanitarian efforts in this field, he was awarded the Temple Israel Men's Brotherhood Award in 1963.

He was born in the Lawrenceville area of Pittsburgh Aug. 22, 1894, to the late Valentine and Helen Sumeracks Stancelewski. Ordained in 1918.

Msgr. Stancelewski received his early education in Holy Family School and Duquesne University, Pittsburgh. He graduated from St. Vincent Seminary, Latrobe, Dec. 21, 1918, and was ordained into the priesthood by Bishop Regis Canevin.

The bishop temporarily assigned him to New Castle in 1918 to assist Rev. Francis Baczewski at Madonna and St. Michael churches. His next appointment was assistant pastor at St. Josephat Parish in Pittsburgh for two and a half years.

Msgr. Stancelewski returned to New Castle in August 1922 when he founded Saint Philip and Saint James Church. Under his guidance the church grew from the original 75 families to the present membership of 500 families. He was responsible for improvements to the church and SS Philip and James Parochial

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After children had shared quarters with the trade school for six years, classes occupied the entire building in 1954. Many improvements were made to the building for grades one through eight.

Msgr. Stancelewski was instrumental in securing new facilities for the parish. A rectory was built, a 10-acre cemetery established, a church hall put to use and a convent added to the rectory.

Msgr. Stancelewski joined Dr. Iwan J. Gruen of Temple Israel and Rev. Delbert E. Jolley of First Methodist Church in conducting an all-faith tribute to the late President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 24, 1963, in First Presbyterian Church for the community.

He was honored March 18 when he was elevated to the rank of monsignor, and vested as a domestic prelate by Most Rev. Bishop Wright in St. Paul's Cathedral in Pittsburgh.

Spiritual Head

Msgr. Stancelewski served as spiritual head of the Lawrence County Deanery of Catholic Men and spiritual director of the county Deanery of Holy Name societies for more than 20 years. He was a Fourth Degree Knight of Columbus, served the PRUC and was a member of the New Castle Kiwanis Club and the Youth Guidance Council of the community.

He is survived by a brother, Frank Stencil of Pittsburgh. His father died in 1936 and his mother in 1945.

The body will be taken to SS Philip and James Church rectory, 10 E. Chartes St., at 11 a.m. tomorrow from the Noga Funeral Home. The translation from the rectory to the church will be at 3 p.m. Sunday.

The Office of the Dead will be recited at 10:30 a.m. Monday in the church followed by a Pontifical Requiem Mass at 11 a.m.

S School.
School Purchased
He was instrumental in the
purchase of the old Terrace Ave.
School building from the New
Castle School District in 1948.
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Requiem Mass at 11 a.m.
celebrated by Most Rev. Auxil-
iary Bishop Vincenz Leonard of
the Diocese of Pittsburgh.
Interment will be in SS Philip
and James Cemetery.