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Controversial priest **Richard Ginder** dies

The **Rev. Richard Ginder**, who earned a national reputation for his writings before he was suspended from his priestly duties in 1976, died Thursday in New Hampshire of injuries sustained in an auto accident.

Rev. Ginder, 70, first gained notoriety from his religious writings, but later was in the news because of arrests on morals charges and a book against church stands on morality.

A mass of Christian burial held Monday at St. Anne Church, Castle Shannon, was attended by about 50

priests from the district. The Most **Rev.** Bishop Anthony J. Bevilacqua celebrated the mass.

Burial was at Calvary Cemetery, Hazelwood.

Rev. Ginder was founder and editor for 24 years of a national journal for Catholic clergy. He also was associate editor of "Our Sunday Visitor" for 20 years, and wrote weekly columns and hundreds of pamphlets in a style that made him one of the most influential priests in the Catholic Church.

He also was the official censor of

the Diocese of Pittsburgh for many years.

In 1969, he was arrested on morals charges after Pittsburgh police found photographs of teenage boys engaged in homosexual acts and diaries of his own sexual activities in his Squirrel Hill apartment.

He pleaded guilty to the charges and for several years underwent psychiatric treatment.

Six years later, **Rev. Ginder** published a book titled "Binding With Briars: Sex and Sin in the Catholic Church," which criticized church po-

sitions on homosexuality, birth control and premarital sex. For this, The Most **Rev.** Bishop Vincent Leonard, then bishop of the Pittsburgh Catholic Diocese, stripped him of his priestly faculties.

In 1978, he was arrested again on morals charges at his apartment on the South Side.

Rev. Ginder was killed while he has driving from the funeral of his brother, The **Rev.** Edwin S. **Ginder**, who was a priest in Port Tobacco, Md.