

The Rev. Paul E. Pindel

The Rev. Paul E. Pindel, a priest who served predominantly Polish parishes throughout the Pittsburgh Catholic Diocese, died of a brain tumor yesterday in the home of a sister in Allentown. He was 65.

Father Pindel, known in the 1980s as the "Polka Padre," was a proponent of Polish song and dance. In 1974, while pastor of St. Genevieve Church, Canonsburg, he formed a dance group with the aid of a \$10,000 grant from Bobby Vinton, a Canonsburg native, and took the costumed dancers to perform in Poland. The group performs today as the St. Hyacinth Polonia dance group.

He earned the "Polka Padre" nickname for the type of music he played while the host of a Sunday afternoon Polish radio program on the former WPLA-AM station in Crafton in 1985 and 1986.

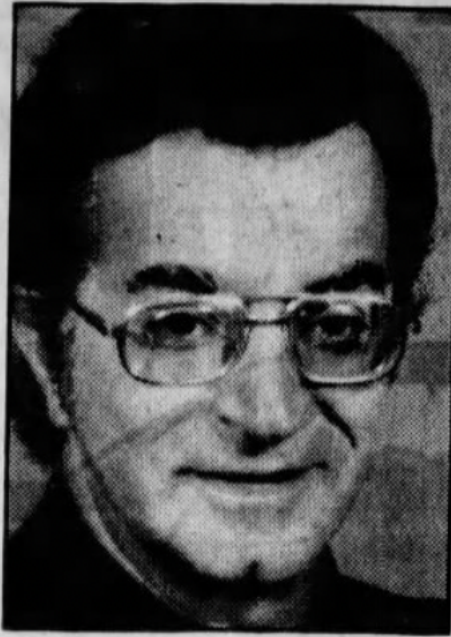
Father Pindel was ordained in 1951 at St. Paul Cathedral.

His church assignments as parochial vicar included: St. Stanislaus, Ambridge, 1951; St. John Cantius, Sharpsburg, 1952; St. Robert Bellarmine, East McKeesport, 1953; Holy Family, Lawrenceville, 1957; Holy Angels, Hays, 1959; St. William, East Pittsburgh, 1960; and St. Martin, West End, 1966.

His assignments as pastor included St. Rose of Lima, Darlington, and St. Ann, New Galilee, both 1969; St. Genevieve, Canonsburg, 1973; and St. Hyacinth, Oakland, 1985 to July 6, 1989, when he took a leave of absence because of illness.

He was chaplain of Gilmary School, Coraopolis, from 1971 to 1973.

Father Pindel was a member of the Polish Falcon and Polish National Alliance.



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Surviving are three sisters, Agnes Dilla of Allentown, Rose Gall of West Mifflin and Mary Johnson of Pine Hill, N.J.; and three brothers, Albert of Beechview, John of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Andrew of Rialto, Calif.

Friends may call from 2 to 9 p.m. today and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. tomorrow in John J. Gmitter Funeral Home Inc., 119 S. 15th St., South Side, after which the body will be taken to St. Josaphat Church, South Side, where a Mass will be said at 7 p.m. and friends will be received until 9:30 p.m. A Mass will be said at 10 a.m. Friday in the church. Interment will be in the church cemetery.

