

# Chaplain for Benedictine Sisters

By Len Barcoucky  
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The Rev. Robert L. Mellott spent 17 years as chaplain to the Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh at their convent in Ross.

“He was very observant and intuitive,” said Sister Barbara Helder, liturgy director for the order of nuns. “He was tuned into events happening at the convent and he was able to place those things into his homilies.”

The resulting sermons were particularly meaningful for his listeners, Sister Barbara said. “We miss him a lot.”

Father Mellott, 71, died Friday at the Little Sisters of the Poor home on the North Side. He had been in ill health for several years.

He was the only son of the late

Robert and Priscilla Mellott. He attended Hopewell Elementary School and Aliquippa High School. He was ordained in 1963 at St. Paul Cathedral by Bishop John Wright.

During his career as a priest in the Diocese of Pittsburgh he served as parochial vicar, administrator or pastor at many congregations, including St. Edward, St. Rosalia, St. Agatha and Nativity of Our Lord parishes.

His other duties included service as a chaplain at Marcy State Hospital, St. Elizabeth Hospital, Western Center in Canonsburg, Villa Maria Community Center and Divine Providence Hospital.

“He was a lot of fun, he was generous and he was very spiritual,” Sister Barbara said. “It was just a very short time after he came here that he settled into embrac-

ing the Benedictine spirit. It’s a very human and down-to-earth spirituality that finds God in daily living.”

The Benedictine order is named for a 6th century Italian saint who codified rules for monastic living.

While offering daily Masses at the Ross convent and advising sisters with their spiritual needs, Father Mellott also assisted at local parishes and counseled hospital patients.

Bishop David Zubik will celebrate a Mass for Father Mellott at 11 a.m. today at the Little Sisters of the Poor.

Private burial will follow in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Hopewell.

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