

Priest killed in crash

Rev. Paul J. Bruening, 51, a teacher at Althoff Catholic High School during the mid-1960's, was killed Saturday morning in a head-on collision near Nashville.

Illinois State Police said a car driven by Ernest A. Meddows, 32, of Valer, Ill., crossed the centerline and crashed head-on into the eastbound car driven by Rev. Bruening. Thomas Bovay, 10, of Nashville, an altar boy accompanying Rev. Bruening, was seriously injured and was admitted to the Washington County Hospital at Nashville.

Rev. Bruening reportedly was returning to

Nashville after having taken Holy Communion to several sick persons.

Meddows also was admitted to the hospital, police said.

The accident occurred at 10:46 a.m. Saturday on Illinois 15^{1/2} about 710 mile west of Illinois 127, police said. Police said their investigation into the cause of the accident is continuing.

Rev. Bruening was a teacher and parish priest in the Belleville Diocese in the 1960's and 1970's. He was assigned as pastor of the

St. Ann parish in Nashville in July, 1975. He previously had served as pastor at Renault and Metropolis, Ill. He had been ordained a priest in Iowa on May 5, 1954.

He also served as the Belleville Diocese Director of Ecumenism and Interreligious Affairs.

A funeral Mass, attended by more than 100 priests from the Belleville Diocese, was held Tuesday at the St. Ann church.

The body was forwarded to his hometown, Carroll, Iowa, for burial.