



REV. ANTONIO GIRARDIN

### Rev. A. Girardin

The Rev. Antonio M. Girardin, 64, died unexpectedly Tuesday afternoon at St. John the Baptist rectory at Winslow where he had been the pastor the past two years.

Born in Auburn, Aug. 4, 1910, the son of Nazaire and Amanda Dostie Girardin, he attended L-A schools and studied at the Grand Seminary at Montreal, Que. On May 22, 1937, he was ordained by Bishop Joseph E. McCarthy at the Cathedral of Portland.

His first assignment was as assistant pastor at St. Mary's By the Sea at Stonington in 1937-1942; and assistant at St. Michael's at South Berwick, 1942-1944.

From 1944 to 1946, he served in the U.S. Army as a major in the Chaplain Corps and entered the service as a first lieutenant, during which time he received the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and was cited to the Order of the Day by the King of Belgium. He also won battle stars. He was attached overseas in Europe to the Fourth Armored Division and the 99th Infantry Division. He also served as department chaplain of the Maine Department American Legion for several years of which he had been an active member. He was also a member of the Veterans of Foreign War.

The priest was known for his many acts of kindness and love of young people. Once when an altar boy at St. Agnes Church at Pittsfield was unable to deliver his newspapers, Father Girardin, a former Lewiston Sun newsboy himself, went out into the rain and delivered the papers for the boy.

He was a member of the Winslow Booster Club and was an ardent supporter of the Christian Youth Organization and was also active in many other organizations. After his tour of duty with the Army, he served at Holy Cross Church at Portland from 1946 to 1952; was assistant pastor at St. Hyacinthe's Church at Westbrook in 1952-1960; was pastor of St. Agnes Church at Pittsfield from 1960 to 1967; and pastor of St. Martin of Tours at Millinocket from 1967 to 1972. He then became pastor of St. John the Baptist Church at Winslow. He was diocesan Scout chaplain and was a member of the Priest Senate and Camping Board.

Father Girardin is survived by a brother, Ludger of Lewiston.