

Rev. William Byrne, 68; St. Ambrose pastor

The Rev. William T. Byrne, pastor of St. Ambrose Catholic Church, died Sunday of cancer. He was 68.

Besides serving at nine different parishes during his 38 years in the Catholic Diocese of Tucson, Byrne was the first chaplain at the Arizona State Prison in Florence in 1964.

From 1962 to 1964, he provided religious services for migrant workers at camps in Maricopa, Pima and Pinal counties.

A native of Baltimore, Byrne graduated from St. Francis Seminary in Loretto, Pa. He was ordained a priest for the Tucson diocese in 1952.

Byrne was an assistant pastor at SS. Peter and Paul and St. Ambrose in the early 1950s and at seven other Arizona parishes before becoming pastor of St. Ambrose in 1985.

He was a retired lieutenant colonel in the Army National Guard.

A vigil and rosary will be at 5:30 p.m. today at St. Ambrose, 300 S. Tucson Blvd. A parish Mass will follow at 7 p.m.

Bishop Manuel D. Moreno and retired Tucson Bishop Francis J. Green will celebrate a Mass of the Resurrection at 10 a.m. tomorrow at the church. Burial will follow at Holy Hope Cemetery & Mausoleum, 3555 N. Oracle Road.

Other Masses will be held at Our Mother of Sorrows, 1800 S. Kolb Road, 9 a.m. Sunday; Sacred Heart in Clifton, 6 p.m. Monday; and St. Francis de Assisi in Yuma, 6 p.m. next Wednesday.

Byrne is survived by a brother, Don Byrne, of Hedgesville, W.Va.