

Rev. Carl Schaffer, retired priest, dies

State Journal Staff Report

The Rev. Carl C. Schaffer, a retired Roman Catholic priest who once served as pastor of Frankfort's Good Shepherd Church, was pronounced dead Monday at his home outside Williamsburg. He was 66.

His body was found in his car inside his garage by two nuns who went to his home after being unable to reach him during the weekend, according to an article in the Lexington Herald-Leader.

Whitley County Coroner Carl Paul was out of the office this morning and did not return a reporter's phone call by press time.

The Herald-Leader reported Paul said the death might have been caused by carbon monoxide poisoning.

Paul pronounced the retired priest dead at 8:30 p.m. Monday. He said Schaffer's body was in the front seat of the car.

He said the car's ignition was turned on and the car's battery was dead. The garage door was closed. Paul said a Saturday edition of a Knoxville newspaper was in the car.

Rob Elliott, commander of the Kentucky State Police post at Morehead said this morning Detective Sherman Royse questioned Schaffer shortly before his death. He said a complaint had been filed recently against the retired priest but would not elaborate.

Elliott said state police were continuing to investigate.

State Trooper Lon Fields, the public affairs officer for the Morehead post, said the criminal complaint was filed Monday, June 28. He would not elaborate.

Fields said Royse interviewed Schaffer on Friday, July 2.

Schaffer served as pastor of Good Shepherd Church from 1973 to 1979.

He retired in 1989. Schaffer was ordained in 1953. He was former pastor of St. Luke Church, Nicholasville; St. Rose of Lima Church, Mays Lick; and St. Bernard Church, Dayton.

He served as an assistant or associate at several other churches. He was at one time affiliated with Covington Catholic High School. He was instrumental in organizing Padre House for children in Nicholasville and Padre House in Williamsburg.

A native of Covington, he studied at College at Villa Madonna, Covington, and studied philosophy and theology at St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul, Minn.

Survivors include three brothers, Robert H. Schaffer, Fort Mitchell, George H. Schaffer, Erlanger, and John L. Schaffer, Cincinnati; and seven sisters, Roselyn E. Murphy, Erlanger, Dorothy M. Hodapp, St. Petersburg, Fla., Edna Jean Depenbrock, Cincinnati, Loretta F. Forsythe, Florence, Jo Ann Glenn, Savannah, Ga., Mary Kay Wilson, Los Angeles, and Martha Jane Miller, Union.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be 10 a.m. Friday at St. Henry Catholic Church, Erlanger.

Friends may call 6 to 9 p.m. today at Linnemann Funeral Home, Erlanger.

Contributions are suggested to Diocese of Lexington Mission Office, P.O. Box 12350, Lexington, Ky. 40582, or Peace Place for Children, 369 Harold LeForce Road, Williamsburg, Ky. 40769-9631.