

**Found Dead in Missouri**

# Vigil Service Tonight For Msgr. H. C. Teacle

A Bible vigil will be held at 7:30 p.m. today at Osborn's Funeral Home Chapel for Msgr. Howard Clinton Teacle, 46, of Shreveport, former superintendent of schools for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Alexandria who was found dead late Friday at a Sullivan, Mo., motel.

Two bearded men seen eating dinner with him at the motel were objects of a nationwide manhunt last night. His automobile, wallet, coat and other personal possessions were missing.

The Missouri Highway Patrol put out an alert Saturday for the arrest of a man described as about 180-200 pounds and having long red hair and a long trimmed beard.

The man was reportedly last seen driving a 1968 black and green Ford with Louisiana license number 155G212. A check with Louisiana State Police showed the car was registered to Msgr. Teacle at his Shreveport address about 14 months ago.

A later bulletin said one of the men was about 40, the other in his late 20s, and that both had long, trim beards.

Msgr. Teacle was discovered by a maid Friday afternoon sitting dressed in an empty bathtub in his motel room. Two men's socks, tied together, were around his chin and the back of his neck.

Dr. Robert Long, a pathologist, ruled after an autopsy Saturday that Msgr. Teacle had died of asphyxiation, and ruled out death by drowning or a coronary arrest.

The body was found at 3 p.m. Friday. Franklin County Deputy Sheriff Don Schroeder said there appeared to be no bruises about the monsignor's neck, but that discoloration of the body made it difficult to be certain. He said the socks looked more like a gag that had slipped than a strangling device.

### On Leave

Msgr. Teacle, on temporary leave from his diocese, was studying at St. Louis, Mo., and teaching at Villa Duchesne High School in St. Louis County and at Mercy Convent.

The Rev. P. J. Flavin of the Immaculata rectory in St. Louis County, where Msgr. Teacle lived, said Msgr. Teacle had driven southwest into the Ozark mountains on his day off to enjoy the spring weather. However, the Rev. William F. Allen, pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church here, said the monsignor's mother, Mrs. Neva Griffin Teacle of Shreveport, had received a letter from her son stating that he was going to a prayer meeting at



**MSGR. H. CLINTON TEACLE**

Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans.

Father Allen said the priests at Msgr. Teacle's rectory became concerned when he didn't show up for Mass Thursday morning, and turning in a missing person report which led to discovery of the body. He said that priests from the rectory identified the body.

Sheriff Schroeder said several persons remembered seeing Msgr. Teacle in the company of two bearded men in the dining room of the Holiday Inn in Sullivan Thursday evening. Sullivan is some 50 miles southwest of St. Louis.

### Paid For Meals

Restaurant records showed that Msgr. Teacle paid for all three meals with his charge card. He said the monsignor's room did not appear to have been ransacked, but there were "a couple of unusual things" he said would be studied further.

He said no one at the rectory or among Msgr. Teacle's acquaintances in the Louisiana diocese had any idea who the bearded men might be. The two hunted men apparently did not check into the motel.

Msgr. Teacle's car was last noticed at midnight Thursday and it was missing from the motel lot at 5 a.m. Friday, Schroeder said.

A native of Shreveport, Msgr. Teacle was educated in local public schools and graduated from Byrd High School in 1939. He graduated magna cum laude from Centenary College in 1942, then enrolled in Notre Dame Seminary for priesthood training.

A concelebrated funeral Mass will be offered for Msgr. Teacle at 10:30 a.m. Monday in St.

John's Catholic Church, where he made his first communion, confirmation, and was ordained.

Bishop Greco will officiate at the Mass, assisted by 12 diocesan priests, and burial will be in Forest Park Cemetery.

The body was flown here late yesterday afternoon.

In addition to his mother, Msgr. Teacle is survived by three uncles, Charles Griffin,

Cecil Griffin and W. H. Griffin, all of Shreveport; and a number of cousins, including Mrs. Bobette Davis, Mrs. Daisy Kime, Mrs. Marilyn Normand, Mrs. Dorabell Crook and Mrs. Neva Mary Kamphus, all of Shreveport.

Pallbearers will be Neilson Jacobs, Lee Ramsel, Ernest Merklein, Charles Davis, Harry Johnson, William J. O'Brien,

Henry Rosenblath, Hunter Peterson, Tom Carmody and W. Wilson Jr.