

# Rev. John J. Graham, retired pastor; chaplain to area groups

**LAKESWOOD** — The Rev. John J. Graham, a Roman Catholic priest for 52 years, who served as chaplain to numerous area groups, died Sunday at the Country Manor Nursing Home, Dover Township.

Father Graham, 77, was born in Dedham, Mass., and lived in New Haven, Conn., as a child.

He served as a curate and pastor in the Archdiocese of Hartford, Conn., for 42 years, prior to his retirement in 1974.

Father Graham was an assistant football coach in Connecticut at the Danbury High School and at Enfield High School, which was the state Class B champions in 1950. He also served as a coach for the Danbury semipro hockey team.

Father Graham came to the Shore after his retirement in 1974.

He was a chaplain or honorary chaplain of such organizations as Knights of Columbus Council 836, Brick Township, Faithful Friars Fourth Degree of Ocean



**GRAHAM**

County, Faithful Friars Second Degree of Southern New Jersey, the Toms River Anchor Club, Leisure Village East, Brick Senior Citizens, the Brick Happiness Club and the Point Pleasant Anchor Club.

Also, the Herbertsville Cub and Boy Scouts, the Breton Woods Fire Department, Breton Woods Association of Retired Persons, the St. Teresa Chapel of Forge Pond apartments, Knights of Columbus Squires and KCettes, all Brick Township.

He also was a celebrant of Masses at St. Mary's of the Lake Roman Catholic Church, Lakewood, and the Roman Catholic Church of the Visitation, Brick Township.

Father Graham served as a stretcher bearer and interpreter in English, Italian and French for the Lourdes Grotto and Shrine and was an assistant at the Father Damien Leper Colony, Hawaii.

He was graduated from St. Mary's University in Baltimore in 1928 and attended the North American College and Propaganda Fidei University in Rome, from which he was graduated in 1932. He was ordained to the Catholic priesthood in 1931.

Surviving are a sister, Mary D. Boehmer, here, and a brother, Hugh E. Graham Jr., Jacksonville, Fla.

The D'Elia Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.