

Obituaries

George D. Roulier, 68, Adams native, missionary

The Rev. George D. Roulier, OMI, of St. Jean-Baptiste Rectory, Lowell, a native of Adams and former 30-year missionary to Haiti, died Tuesday at the rectory. He was 68.

He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Philippe Roulier. He attended schools in Adams and was graduated from Notre Dame parochial school, Adams. He studied at the Seminary in St. Hyacinthe and Le Petit Seminaire, both in Quebec, Canada. From 1941-46 he studied at the Scholasticate, Natick. He completed his preparation for the priesthood at the Oblate Fathers College, Natick, and following his ordination, spent a year at the college taking special preparatory work for the Haitian assignment.

Father Roulier was ordained June 24, 1945 by His Excellency Jean Louis Collignon, former bishop of Haiti. He served as a curate and later as pastor of St. Anna of Char-donnere parish in Haiti and as curate at St. Jeanne of Charetal parish. These two churches included over 10,000 people. Later he was an instructor in Latin and history at Oblate Junior Seminary, Camp Per-rin, Les Cayes, for six years. Several of his students went on to become the first Haitian priests and one became a bishop. Some had assignments in New York City.

He was involved in catechetical and liturgical work while serving as secretary to Archbishop Marie-Joseph Lemieux, apostolic nuncio to Haiti from 1967 to 1969. In that two years, he travel extensively to many foreign countries.

Father Roulier traveled by land, sea and air, by automobile, airplane and ship, on a mule, donkey, horse and by bicycle. He was fluent in four languages including English, French, Creole and Latin. His ser-



The Rev. George D. Roulier

mons were heard in both French and in Creole, the Haitian languages. The government issued a passport which allowed him to travel free anywhere in the world.

Father Roulier had also served in the following parishes: St. Peter's in Plattsburgh, N.Y., St. Ann's Parish, Nyack, N.Y., St. Angela's (with the ministry to the Haitians) in Mat-tapan and for two years served as chaplain at Presentation of Mary Academy, Hudson, N.H.

He leaves two sisters, Madeleine LaBonte of Adams and Beatrice King of Santa Anna, Calif.; nieces; nephews and cousins.

A wake service will be held Thursday from 2 to 4 at Laurin's. The prayer vigil will be at 7 p.m. in St. Jean-Baptiste Upper Church, Lowell. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated Friday at 11 a.m. in that church.