

OBITUARIES

Rev. Carl Sherer; Hamden pastor

The Rev. Carl J. Sherer, pastor of St. Stephen's Church in Hamden and former pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in South Windsor, died Wednesday at St. Raphael's Hospital in New Haven. He was 72.

"His philosophy of life was just love of God and neighbor and service — giving himself just like our Lord did for the people," said Father Sherer's brother, the Rev. Richard B. Sherer, pastor emeritus of St. Brigid Church, West Hartford.

"He lived that essence of the priesthood all the time. He gave himself untiringly to the people, and he gave with joy, too. This endeared him to the people," his brother said. "I will certainly miss him."

Born in Dayton, Ohio, Father Sherer attended the St. Joseph Cathedral School in Hartford and entered St. Thomas Seminary in 1936. He also studied at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. In 1947, he was ordained in the Cathedral of St. Joseph by the Most Rev. Henry J. O'Brien.

In 1947, Father Sherer was named assistant pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in New Hartford and to the same position at St. Gabriel's Church in Windsor the following year. At St. Gabriel's, Fa-

ther Sherer established the parish's Catholic Youth Organization and its Knights of Columbus chapter.

In 1956, upon leaving St. Gabriel's, he was honored with a testimonial in Windsor attended by 1,000 people. In a newspaper article announcing the event, he was praised "for his faithful services to the residents, no matter what race, creed or color. He was one of the most popular members of the clergy to serve St. Gabriel's parish."

From 1956 to 1966, Father Sherer served the Lauralton Hall Academy for Girls in Milford, where he was the chaplain and an instructor.

At one time he was also a member of the teaching staff at the Mount St. Joseph Academy.

Father Sherer was the assistant pastor of St. Francis Church in Naugatuck and of St. John's Church in Watertown before being named pastor of the Nativity Church in Bethlehem in 1972. He was responsible for construction of the Nativity Church's rectory.

In 1977, he was appointed pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in South Windsor, and in his years there oversaw the renovation of the church hall. He joined St. Stephen's Church in Hamden in 1989.