

Father Daly dies in his sleep at 78



Rt. Rev. Patrick J. Daly

The Rt. Rev. Patrick J. Daly, 78, dean of Catholic churches in the San Luis Obispo area, died in his sleep this morning at the Old Mission rectory.

Monsignor Daly, who had been in San Luis Obispo since 1940, had been in ill health for the past several years and for the last few months had been unable to say his daily Mass.

Death was attributed to old age.

Msgr. Daly was a native of Ireland, born in County Kerry on Aug. 21, 1888. He was educated in schools in Ireland, receiving his religious training at St. Brendan's Seminary in Killarney and St. Kieran's College in Kilkenny.

He was ordained to the priesthood on June 13, 1915 for the Monterey-Los Angeles diocese and served in the Los Angeles area until he was given his first pastorate in St. Joseph's Parish at Cayucos in 1921. He served there until 1922 when he moved to Coalinga and then successively to Porterville, Hanford and Lemoore before being assigned to San Luis Obispo in 1940.

Old Mission parishioners observed Msgr. Daly's golden anniversary in the priesthood in June, 1965 with a reception in the parish hall.

Msgr. Daly was honored by the church in 1949 with the title of "Very Reverend Monsignor" and again in 1961 when he was designated as domestic prelate with the title of "Right Reverend Monsignor."

During his more active years Daly was credited with promoting many improvements in parochial school facilities and other Old Mission property. The church wing was enlarged and the entire mission remodeled. A new convent for the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary also was constructed during his tenure in addition to a new rectory for priests. He was instrumental in establishing the church museum.

Funeral services are under arrangement of Reis Colonial Chapel.