

Rev. Maurice Scheier dies at 89; held key posts at St. Bonaventure

ALLEGANY — The Rev. Maurice Scheier, a central figure at St. Bonaventure University for most of his 70 years in the Franciscan Order, died Tuesday (March 12, 1991) in St. Francis Hospital, Olean. He was 89.

A native of Allegany, Father Maurice was educated at St. Bonaventure School before entering St. Joseph's Seraphic Seminary in Callicoon. He entered the Franciscan novitiate in Paterson, N.J., in 1920 and then studied philosophy at St. Stephen's Monastery in Croghan and the former St. Bonaventure College. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1927 by Bishop John M. Gannon of Erie, Pa.

Father Maurice then taught Greek and math at St. Bonaventure before beginning a stint at Aquinas Institute in Rochester and doing graduate work at Columbia University, the University of Illinois and Catholic University of America, where he received a master of science degree.

He then returned to his native Allegany and St. Bonaventure, where he served as chairman of the mathematics department and dean of science, as well as vicar and guardian of the friary. He also served from 1961 to 1988 as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Knapp Creek. He retired in 1969.

He was a fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Science, the Mathematics Association of America and the American Mathematical Society. He also was a member of Allegany Council 1220, Knights of Columbus, and was a 60-year member of the Olean Assembly, Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus. He also was a former vice president and board member of the Cattaraugus County SPCA.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 4:40 p.m. Thursday in St. Bonaventure's University Chapel in Doyle Hall. Burial will be Friday in St. Bonaventure Cemetery.