

Msgr. Merchant, Sacred Heart rector, dies in San Francisco



Msgr.
William
Merchant

listening

to, mattresses, golf clubs and electric toothbrushes," he said.

Kaiser's said his clients included the CIA, Defense Intelligence Agency, Army Intelligence, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, Drug Enforcement Agency, U.S. Postal Service, Secret Service, Air Task Force, Internal Revenue Service, Treasury, the FBI "and numerous state and local law enforcement agencies."

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. William H. Merchant, rector of Salina's Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Cathedral, is dead at 64.

The Chancery of the Salina diocese said the priest died Friday of a heart attack in San Francisco. He was returning from a Holy Year visit to Rome.

Msgr. Merchant had been a priest of the Salina diocese since ordination in 1938 and had been rector at Sacred Heart since June, 1968, when he succeeded Msgr. John A. Duskie, who retired.

The priest was born March 29, 1911, in Rochester, N. Y., studied at St. Bonaventure Seminary, Allegany, N. Y., and was ordained June 11, 1938, at Buffalo. He first served as an assistant at Sacred Heart and as chaplain at St. John's hospital in Salina.

Later assignments were in Junction City, Selden, Clay Center and he spent

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14 years as pastor of Seven Dolors Church, Manhattan, before the Cathedral assignment. He was diocesan director of the Catholic Youth Organization from 1948 to 1964 and was on the board of diocesan consultors since 1961.

He was named a papal chamberlain in 1949 and a domestic prelate in 1963. He was a knight commander in the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, a papal order. With Bishop F. W. Freking, then bishop of Salina, he attended the Vatican II council session of 1962.

Arrangements are incomplete, the Chancery said.

The Salina Journal, October 10, 1975