

Obituaries

Bishop Harold Dimmerling

Mass of Christian Burial for Most Reverend Harold Joseph Dimmerling, D.D., Bishop of the Rapid City Catholic Diocese, will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, December 17 at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Rapid City with the Archbishop John R. Roach of the St. Paul/Minneapolis Archdiocese as the principal celebrant.

Diocesan clergy and visiting bishops and priests will concelebrate.

Burial will be at the Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Rapid City. Osheim-Catron Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Dimmerling had served as bishop to the 35,000 Catholics of western south Dakota since his episcopal ordination in 1969.

Born in Braddock, Pennsylvania on September 23, 1914 to Edward and Amelia (Weisant) Dimmerling, he attended grade school at St. Joseph's Braddock. He attended the St. Fidelis Seminary, the St. Charles Borromeo Seminary and the St. Francis Seminary.

He was ordained to the priesthood at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Altoona, Pennsylvania in 1940.

As bishop, Dimmerling instigated new programs in the diocese and improved on existing ones. He initiated the Stewardship program, started the diocesan newspaper, "West River Catholic", established the Office of Social Concerns which later became Catholic Social Services, began a permanent deacon program to help with the ministry in the 43,000 square mile diocese, opened the diocesan youth office in 1976, established the Rural Life Commission in the early 70's, the Ministry to the Separated, Widowed and Divorced was started in 1980 under Dimmerling, established an alcohol Health Panel in 1984, and spoke to the Bishops Luncheon to keep local Catholics informed of national and international church news.

Dimmerling was an early advocate of the appointment of Native American bishops.

He was a member of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and was a member of the Catholic Mutual Relief Society.

He is survived by five sisters, Sr. Mary Adrian Dimmerling, CDP, and Mrs. William (Wilma) Seng, both of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Matthew (Agnes) Kollar, Franklin, Pennsylvania; Mrs. How-

ard (Vera) Claiborne, Knoxville, Tennessee; Mrs. James (Rita) Malley, West Mifflin, Pennsylvania; one brother, Carl Dimmerling of Pittsburgh, Penn., 28 nieces and nephews and many grand nieces and nephews; and his housekeeper of 30 years, Marie Thuente, Rapid City.

He is preceded in death by his parents, and by his sister, Violet.

Fr. William O'Connell, pastor of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Rapid City, was elected by the diocesan consultors to act as administrator of the diocese until a successor to Dimmerling is appointed by the Vatican



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