

Obituary

Thaddeus Ozog, monsignor

Associated Press

REESE — Roman Catholic Monsignor Thaddeus Ozog has died of AIDS contracted from a 1981 transfusion, his brother said. He was 64.

Ozog, pastor for 16 years of St. Florian Roman Catholic Church in Hamtramck and former rector-president of Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit, died Monday at the Reese home of his sister, Ann Ozog.

Cardinal-designate Adam Maida was to preside at a funeral Mass on Thursday at St. Florian.

Ozog contracted the HIV virus that causes AIDS when he received a shot of the blood product gamma globulin for treatment of encephalitis, said his brother, Dr. Stanley Ozog. He said Ozog learned he had the virus in 1988 when he tried to give blood.

Ozog began to have health problems in 1990, his brother said.

Born Sept. 30, 1930 in Detroit, Ozog entered Sacred Heart Seminary in 1948 and was ordained by the late Cardinal Edward Mooney in 1956.

He worked at Our Lady Help of Christians parish in Detroit, St. Columban in Birmingham and Our Lady of the Lakes in Waterford. In 1959, he joined the faculty of Sacred Heart Seminary, where he worked for 16 years.

He went on to lead St. Roch in Flat Rock and became pastor at St. Florian in 1978. Cardinal Edmund Szoka, then head of the Archdiocese of Detroit, named Ozog monsignor in 1990.

"He lived for the church; he died for the church. The church was his life," said his sister, Ann Ozog, a nun and attorney.

Other survivors include five brothers, Dr. Francis Ozog, Anthony Ozog, Dr. John Ozog, Wallace Ozog and Joseph Ozog; and three sisters, Lottie Basta, Joan Roden and Dorothy Carson.