

Rev. Harold E. Whittet, retired priest; served churches in Twin Cities area

The Rev. Harold E. Whittet, 78, a retired Roman Catholic priest who served churches in South St. Paul, Roseville and Marshall, Minn., died Sunday in Burbank, Calif.

Whittet, a native of Redwood Falls, Minn., attended the American College of Louvain in Belgium and was ordained a priest June 1, 1940, at the St. Paul Cathedral.

He was assistant pastor of St. Augustine Church in South St. Paul and Holy Redeemer Church in Marshall before serving as an Army chaplain from 1944 to 1946.

He was founding pastor of St. John Vianney Church in South St. Paul. He was pastor of St. Rose of Lima

Catholic Church in Roseville and a member of the priests' senate of the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis when he retired in 1976.

Whittet was a singer, and made more than 10 records. His first album, "12 Catholic Hymns for All Seasons," went on the market in 1960. His second album, a collection of Catholic Christmas hymns he recorded in 1962, raised more than \$7,000 for St. John Vianney's building fund.

In 1948 he set the words to the Catholic version of "The Lord's Prayer" to music and sang the hymn at the Republican and Democratic national conventions. In 1949 he was appointed national soloist for the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Whittet had lived in California since he retired. He had taught at Catholic high schools and assisted in parishes until recently.

He is survived by his brother, James, of East Bethel, and sisters Gertrude Hoover, of Oregon; Margaret Powers, of Connecticut, and Katherine Schreiner, Rosemarie Whittet and Mary McKinney, all of California.

Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, 2048 N. Hamline Av., Roseville.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday at Roseville Memorial Church, 2245 N. Hamline Av.