



MSGR. ROGER KENNEY WOODEN

# Mass will be offered for Msgr. Wooden

A mass of Christian burial for Msgr. Roger Kenney Wooden, pastor emeritus of the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, will be offered in the chapel of the Stella Maris Hospice at 10 A. M. Monday.

Monsignor Wooden died Thursday at Stella Maris.

Known as a wit, a man of quick repartee, who could identify with young or old, Monsignor Wooden had been a priest for nearly half a century.

Born 77 years ago in Baltimore, he was educated at the former St. Charles College in Catonsville and the former St. Mary's Seminary on Paca street.

Ordained in June, 1927, he was assigned as associate pastor of St. Mary Star of the Sea, in South Baltimore, where he served for 16 years before his appointment as pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, in Thurmont, Md. While in that assignment, he was also the Catholic chaplain for the tuberculosis hospital operated by the state at that time at Sabilasville.

In 1949, after six years in Thurmont, he was named pastor of St. Jerome's Church in Baltimore. He also became chaplain for

the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

In 1958 Father Wooden was assigned as pastor of the Church of the Blessed Sacrament at Old York Road and 41st street. The following year Pope John XXIII elevated him to the rank of domestic prelate with the title of monsignor.

Monsignor Wooden sparked intensive efforts to renovate the facilities of Blessed Sacrament, which were said to have been in poor condition when he arrived there. Also, this church, under his leadership, became one of the major contributing parishes to the old Catholic charities appeals.

He was there during a period when this parish, in common with many others, was changing from a white membership to one racially mixed.

In neighborhood affairs, he was one of the earliest supporters of NECO—the Northeast Community Organization.

Among other activities, Monsignor Wooden served for many years as ecclesiastical superior of the Discalced Carmelites of the Archdiocese of Baltimore.

He became pastor emeritus in 1971.

Surviving are a number of nieces and nephews.