

Father Kelly, of St. Thomas More, dies

A Mass of Christian burial for the Rev. Thomas M. Kelly, who was the first pastor of St. Thomas More Roman Catholic Church, will be offered at 10 a.m. today at the church at McClean Boulevard and Northern Parkway.

Father Kelly, who was 80 and had lived at Stella Maris Hospice since his retirement in 1971, died Wednesday at St. Joseph Hospital after a stroke.

He headed St. Thomas More parish from its establishment in 1960

until his retirement and supervised construction of all the current parish buildings.

Earlier, he was an assistant pastor at St. Matthew's Church from 1955 to 1960, and at St. Mary Star of the Sea from 1940 until 1955. He spent a year in his first assignment, St. Paul's Church in Washington.

He was ordained at the age of 32 in 1939, several months ahead of the rest of his seminary class, to allow him to celebrate a Mass for his parents' 50th wedding anniversary.

A native of Harford County who was raised in Long Green, he was a graduate of St. Charles College and St. Mary's Seminary.

He is survived by two sisters, Gertrude O'Meara and Irene Cunningham, both of Baltimore; a brother, Bernard Kelly of Long Green; and many nieces and nephews.

Two of his nephews, the Rev. Joseph M. O'Meara of Baltimore and the Rev. John L. Kelly of Glen Burnie, will be among the celebrants of the Mass this morning.