



HIS LOVE FOR CHILDREN is typified in this photo of Father Robert Devoy, who died today at the age of 78 after many years of service as pastor of St. Joseph's Orphanage. Accompanied almost always by many admiring children when he took frequent walks along Burlington streets, Father Devoy was presented a Civic Service Award by the Fraternal Order of Eagles in 1949 for his devotion to young people and "as the beloved friend of children, irrespective of race or creed or color." The beloved priest had celebrated his Golden Jubilee in the priesthood on Nov. 29, 1953.

Rev. Robert Devoy, Popular Priest, Dies

The Rev. Robert Devoy slipped away early today from his friends, the children and Sisters of St. Joseph's Orphanage where he lived since 1935, and from elders in the church and the city who loved him.

One of the older priests who served in his parishes and assignments for more than the usual number of years, he would have been highly eulogized at his funeral except for one thing. He requested in his will that no eulogy be spoken. That request will be observed, but clergymen, Sisters, laymen, friends, children, will fill the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception when the funeral mass is sung at 10 a.m. Monday.

Father Devoy's body will lie in state at St. Joseph's Orphanage which he served as chaplain from 1935 until the day of his death.

Seventy-eight years old, Father Devoy was in downtown Burlington only yesterday. Illness did not claim him long for he was comfortable during the night until about 3:15 a.m. His many friends had noticed in him only a growing physical weakness.

Golden Jubilee in 1953

Father Devoy's golden jubilee as a priest occurred on Nov. 29, 1953, 50 years from the day when he was ordained in Sherbrooke, P. Q., by Bishop Larocque.

The jubilee day was celebrated Oct. 18, 1953, here by a mass of thanksgiving offered in the Cathedral by the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Patrick C. Brennan PAVG in the presence of Bishop Edward P. Ryan and Bishop Designate Bernard J. Mahan, assigned to the diocese of Norwich, Conn. A testimonial dinner was given him the next day by his fellow priests.

Father Devoy noted at that time that he was a priest in the "horse and buggy era" and recalled the concern priests had to reach the altar and dying

He loved the outdoors and until 1953 he was accustomed to take six-mile walks daily through Burlington, often surrounded and followed by children, his devoted friends.

Wins Civic Service Award

"Youth of America are our most precious gems," Father Devoy said in February, 1949, when he became the sixth recipient of the Civic Service Award given by Champlain Area No. 793, Fraternal Order of Eagles.

At that time Pres. Henry Brack designated Father Devoy as the "beloved friend of children irrespective of race or creed or color."

Before becoming chaplain at St. Joseph's Orphanage, Father Devoy was administrator of St. Andrew's Parish, Waterbury, serving from September 1914 until Aug. 14, 1935. He was pastor at St. Anthony's, Sheldon Springs, from September, 1912 until September, 1914.

Before that assignment Father Devoy became the first resident pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, St. Albans Bay, which became a separate parish on Sept. 22, 1904. He was instrumental in building the rectory there in 1905, serving the parish until June,

(See FATHER DEVUY, Page 1)

Father Devoy

(Continued from Page 1)

1912. He was well acquainted with the area, having served as assistant at Holy Angels Church, St. Albans, from Dec. 21, 1903, until Sept. 26, 1904.

Father Devoy was born at St. Leonard, P. Q., Aug. 10, 1876. He studied at Nicolet, P. Q., at Church Point, Nova Scotia, and at St. Laurent, P. Q., before his ordination.

He is survived by a sister, Miss Ellen Devoy of Manchester, N. H., and by a brother whose whereabouts are unknown.

Funeral Services Monday

The Rt. Rev. Mgr. William P. Crosby of Montpelier will be the celebrant of the funeral mass on Monday at 10 a.m. The Very Rev. Jeremiah Purtill SSE, deacon; the Rev. N. Joseph Pray, director of Don Bosco School, sub-deacon.

Acolytes will be the Rev. Edward J. Fitzsimons of Burlington and the Rev. David Roche, Winookski; the thurifer, the Rev. Louis Gelineau, Richford, the master of ceremonies, the Very Rev. Barry E. Fontaine, chancellor of the diocese.

Chaplains to the Most Rev. Edward P. Ryan, bishop of the Burlington diocese, will be the Rev. William Tennien of St. Mark's Church and the Rev. Bernard Spears, St. John Vianney.

Chaplains to the Most Rev. Robert P. Joyce, Rutland, will be the Revs. Joseph Joy, Malletts Bay, and the Rev. Francis Hickey, Vergennes.

Burial will take place in St. Joseph's Cemetery.