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MONSIGNOR EDWARD C. FOSTER KENSINGTON, Md. — Monsignor Edward C. Foster died on April 14, 2000, at the age of 75.

He was born in Rutland, on Feb. 12, 1925, the son of James and Genevieve (Collins) Foster.

He was a graduate of St. Thomas Seminar, Bloomfield, Conn., and St. John Seminary, Brighton, Mass. He was ordained to the priesthood on April 11, 1951, by Bishop Edward F. Ryan for the Diocese of Burlington. His priestly ministry began at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Burlington, from 1951 to 1963, where he also served as choir director. He served at St. Joseph Child Center from 1955 to 1958. Monsignor Foster was the founding pastor of St. Anne Parish in Middletown Springs, serving there from 1963 to 1967. He was also the business manager of The Vermont Catholic Tribune, president of the Vermont Press Association and treasurer of the Vermont Catholic Press Association, a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, a member of the board of trustees of Trinity College and chaplain of the Knights of Columbus. From 1967 until 1986, Monsignor Foster was associate secretary of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, during which time he also served as special assistant to the President of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine. In 1968 he was named a Monsignor by Pope Paul VI and four years later, he was appointed Executive Vice President of the Pontifical Mission. In that capacity he traveled extensively in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and Egypt acting for the Vatican's relief agency. Monsignor Foster was named and decorated by Pope Paul VI as a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre with the rank of Grand Commander with Star. In 1987 he was named deputy director of external affairs for Catholic Relief Services. In 1991 to 1993, he served as executive director of the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate. He retired from active priestly ministry June 22, 1994.

Survivors include a brother, Dr. James Foster and his wife, Alice, of Kensington, Md.; and sisters, Jean and her husband, Bernard Hillig, of Silver Spring, Md., and Monica and her husband, Edward Seager, of Vero Beach, Fla.

Interment will be in the family lot in Calvary Cemetery in Rutland.