

## Rev. Clatus E. Snyder, St. Leo's founder

The Rev. Clatus E. Snyder, founding pastor of St. Leo the Great Parish, Amherst, died Tuesday (March 6, 2001) in Sisters Hospital after a long illness. He was 94.

A priest for 66 years, Mr. Snyder founded St. Leo's Parish in 1953. He resigned as pastor in 1960 because of health problems.

Later, he served as chaplain for the Sisters of Mercy at Our Lady of Mercy Generalate, Orchard Park, from 1974 until his retirement in 1981.

A Buffalo native, Mr. Snyder was ordained May 26, 1934, at Niagara University.

He served as an Army chaplain from 1942 through 1947. Following his discharge, he established the Diocesan Purchasing Department.

Mr. Snyder served as an assistant pastor at Our Lady of Victory Basilica, Lackawanna; Nativity, Holy Cross, St. Agnes, Holy Name

and Blessed Trinity parishes, Buffalo; SS. Peter and Paul, Williamsville, and St. John the Baptist churches, Town of Tonawanda.

He had been a member of the Confraternity of Catholic Clergy, Council of Priests, Senate of Priests and Cordova Council of Alhambra. In addition, he had served as chaplain of the Catholic War Veterans and Third Order of Mount Carmel, as well as on the board of governors of the Cantalician Center.

Mr. Snyder was a graduate of Canisius High School and Niagara University. He later attended St. Andrew Preparatory Seminary and St. Bernard Seminary, both in Rochester.

He is survived by a sister, Mary Irene Thorn of Amherst, and a brother, Bertrand of California.

Bishop Henry J. Mansell of the Buffalo Catholic Diocese will be principal celebrant of a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. Friday in St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church, 157 Cleveland Drive, Cheektowaga. Burial will be in St. Michael's Cemetery, Williamsville.

