

The Rev. Creston Tawes, St. Joseph's Pastor, Dies

The Rev. Creston J. Tawes, pastor of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in Columbia, died Monday in Savannah, Ga., after a heart attack.

He was 46.

A native of Charleston, Father Tawes had served as pastor of both Our Lady of Peace in North Augusta and St. Peter's at Beaufort before his appointment to St. Joseph's in 1975.

That appointment was a homecoming for Father Tawes, who had previously been assistant pastor at St. Joseph's — one of the largest churches in Columbia with more than 3,000 families and a parish school serving some 300 students from kindergarten through eighth grade.

Under Father Tawes' leadership, St. Joseph's had begun a school expansion program with construction scheduled to start in October at the Devine Street church complex.

The parish was numbed by its pastor's death, which occurred without warning while he was on vacation in Georgia.

Father Tawes was president of the Priests' Senate in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston and was dean of the Columbia Deanery.

He had previously served as dean of the Aiken Deanery and as vice president of the South Carolina Christian Action Council. He was active in interfaith affairs and chairman of the diocesan ecumenical commission.

Father Tawes was for many years director of religious education and



THE REV. CRESTON J. TAWES

vocations in the Charleston diocese and had served as director of Camp St. Mary's in Beaufort.

His body will lie in state at St. Joseph's, with burial in Holy Cross Cemetery in Charleston.

More definite arrangements will be announced by John McAlister funeral home of Charleston.