

Msgr. Charles Towne

TROY — Msgr. Charles Augustus Towne died at North Country Hospital in Newport early Monday. He was born in Morristown on Dec. 4, 1903, son of James and Mary (Stewart) Towne.

Msgr. Towne attended Berlin Elementary School, graduated from Northfield High School, attended St. Michael's College and graduated from Providence College in 1927.

He began his studies for the priesthood at Grand Seminary in Montreal, was ordained at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Burlington by Bishop Joseph Rice on May 30, 1931. He was assistant pastor for several years at Montpelier, Graniteville and Burlington, served as assistant chancellor at the Burlington cathedral until 1934, when he was made chancellor.

He was made diocesan consultant in 1952. He was founding pastor of Christ the King in Burlington, 1940-57, pastor of St. Stephen's, Winooski, 1957-70, pastor of St. Theresa, Orleans, 1970-72, retiring in 1972. He helped organize and operate the New Community in Troy for several years, and fully retired in 1976.

He celebrated his 50 years of ordination in 1981. He was chaplain of the Knights of Columbus in Burlington, Winooski and Barton, chaplain and active in the Winooski and Orleans Fire Departments, member for 50 years of St. John's Catholic Order of Foresters. He was active in charity work all over the state, extending a helping hand to many organizations and the Carmelite Sisters.

He is survived by two brothers, Norbert J. Towne of Northfield and John W. Towne of Middlesex; two sisters, Sister Ceephas, St. Joseph's, Rutland, and Mrs. Donald (Rita) Gray, Staten Island, N.Y.; several nieces and nephews.

A mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Northfield, Thursday at 11 a.m. Donations may be made to St. John the Evangelist Church or the charity of your choice. There are no calling hours. Kingston Funeral Home of Northfield is in charge of arrangements.