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# Obituaries

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## Rev. Samuel J. Wilson, 63

GALLUP, N.M. — The Rev. Samuel Joseph Wilson, one-time pastor of Flagstaff's Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, died Oct. 20 at Villa Guadalupe. He was 63.

The Rev. Wilson had suffered from cancer for several months prior to his death.

Funeral Mass will be offered Thursday, 11 a.m., in Cathedral of the Sacred Heart here, by the Most Rev. Jerome J. Hastrich, bishop of Gallup, who will be assisted by priests from throughout the two-state diocese. Burial will follow in Gallup's Hillcrest Cemetery.

The Rev. Wilson was born March 19, 1923, in Lakewood, Ohio. He was ordained a priest in June 1952 by the Most Rev. Bernard T. Espelage, OFM, the first bishop of Gallup. His first assignment was as assistant to the Right Rev. Edward Albouy, then pastor of Nativity in Flagstaff.

Shortly after his arrival in Flagstaff, Monsignor Albouy, who had been in declining health for several months, died. The Rev. Wilson became acting pastor of the Flagstaff church, a post he filled until the early fall of that same year. During his brief tenure in Flagstaff, he was popular for his cheerful, unworldly approach to the people he served.

He then was assigned as pastor of Santo Nino Parish, Aragon, N.M., and from there served for 34 years in parishes and missions in Arizona and New Mexico throughout the Gallup diocese, including Camp Verde, Winslow, Holbrook, Cottonwood, Tolani Lake, St. Johns and Gallup.

His final assignment was as chaplain to the Public Health Service Hospital in Gallup.

Survivors are three brothers, Paul, Chetek, Wis.; Robert, Salt Lake City; and John, Washington, D.C.