

James Reilly

The Rev. James Reilly, 74, who served Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Great Falls from 1972 to 1977, died July 4 at Assumption Abbey in Richardton, N.D., after a long illness.

Services and burial were at the abbey.

He was born in Richardton, only two blocks from the abbey, on Aug. 18, 1915. When he was 14 he moved into the abbey as a candidate for the monastery while working long hours in the kitchen and chicken farm. At the same time he attended the abbey schools for six years. He professed his vows on July 11, 1938, and was ordained a priest on May 29, 1944.

Reilly served various parishes in the Bismarck Diocese, including St. Stephen's south of Richardton where he was pastor from 1947 to 1955. From there he went to Via Caeli monastery in New Mexico until 1968. Then he came to Montana and worked in parishes in Billings and Great Falls. He retired in 1977 and returned to the abbey. He managed the kitchen for a time and took care of nearby parishes until poor health and eyesight forced his retirement in 1987.