

St. Stephen's Pastor Dies Here at 56

Msgr. A. J. LeRoux Was Leader Here In Ecumenical Shift

Msgr. Arthur J. LeRoux, 56, pastor of St. Stephen's Church who celebrated his 30th year in the priesthood last month, died Thursday night at Ferguson-Droste - Ferguson Hospital. He had been ill with cancer for over a year.

He had served since June, 1961 at St. Stephen's, where last year he established one of the first parochial school boards in the Grand Rapids diocese to include lay members. His parish was among the first here to adopt liturgical changes approved by the Vatican.

Msgr. LeRoux was a native of Alpena. He studied six years in St. Joseph's Seminary here in the 1920s, then studied at seminaries in Cincinnati and was ordained April 19, 1936 in St. Andrew's Cathedral here.

He had served parishes in Bay City, Muskegon, where he coached a high school football team — Ludington, Alverno, near Cheboygan, Spring Lake from 1952 to 1957, Holland from 1957 to 1961, and then to St. Stephen's.

Credit Union Pioneer

During his years at Alverno, Msgr. LeRoux was made Diocesan Director of the Catholic



MSGR. ARTHUR LE ROUX

Rural Life Program and the Christian Rural Overseas Program, and established the first parish credit union in his diocese. He had established more than 50 such credit unions

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throughout the state, both on parochial and community level, since then.

Msgr. LeRoux was elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate with title of Right Reverend Monsignor by Pope Pius XII in June, 1956.

Surviving are his mother, Mrs. Alfred J. LeRoux, and a brother, Clarence, both of Alpena, and two sisters, Mrs. Lester Roussin and Mrs. James Jackson, both of Detroit.

The body will be at O'Brien's Funeral Home until Sunday afternoon, when it will be taken to St. Stephen's for reading of the Office of the Dead at 5:30 p.m. A parish mass will be read at 8 a.m. Monday and Requiem Mass at 11 a.m. Burial will be in Alpena.