

Priest, Anaconda man die in head-on collision

HALL (AP) — Two persons, including a Roman Catholic priest who served in parishes throughout western Montana, died Monday night in a head-on collision between a car and a pickup truck.

The state Highway Patrol identified the victims of the crash on U.S. 10-A about seven miles south of Hall as the drivers of the two vehicles, Berry Lou Blaskovich, 43, of Anaconda, and the Rev. James Patrick Barry, 56.

The Catholic Diocese of Helena said Barry, a Butte native, had been assigned since last July to St. Michaels Parish in Drummond.

He was ordained as a priest in 1951 and served for five years at St. Mary's Parish in Butte. He also served one year at the Helena Cathedral and a year at Holy Rosary Parish in Bozeman.

He was a chaplain in the Air Force for four years, and in 1962 became pastor of the parish in Fairfield. In 1966 he was named pastor of St. Philip's Parish in Phillipsburg.

Before taking the assignment in Drummond, he took a leave of absence for three years from the church to make stained glass windows for churches and other buildings.

The Rev. Barry was born in June 1925 in Butte, where he attended St. Mary Grade School and graduated from Butte High School. He received his bachelor of arts degree in philosophy at St. Edward Seminary in Seattle, where he also received his master's of theology degree.

Survivors include three brothers, Thomas, Edward and Richard Barry, all of Butte; a sister, Helen Franklin, San Jose, Calif.; a Korean orphan, whom he brought into this country, Michael Barry, Atlantic City, N.J.; and numerous nephews and nieces.

Mass of the Resurrection will be held Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in the Drummond School gym. Bishop Eldon F. Curtiss of Helena will be the main celebrant and classmates will be the concelebrants. The Deer Lodge nuns will be in charge of the music.

The body will then be taken to Butte where it will lie in state Thursday morning in St. John Church until services there at noon. Bishop Curtiss will be the celebrant. Burial will be in the priests plot in Holy Cross Cemetery in Butte.

Pallbearers for the Drummond service will include J. P. Cunningham, Joe Metesh, Steve Immenschuh, Robert DeRosa, Phil Salois and Joe Strakal.