

Rev. Robert Hartman

Rev. Robert J. Hartman, 74, died peacefully at his home in Helena on Aug. 12, 1996.

Father Hartman was a priest of the Helena Diocese for 49 years.



He was born in Helena June 3, 1922, to Peter J. and Elizabeth (Doerr) Hartman. The family moved to Bozeman where he attended Holy Rosary grade and high schools. He then attended Carroll College in Helena and St. Edward Seminary in Kenmore, Wash. Father Hartman was ordained a priest on May 31, 1947, in the Cathedral of St. Helena. He then served as an associate pastor of St. Patrick Church in Butte until 1949, when he became an associate pastor at the Cathedral of St. Helena until 1956. From 1956 to 1965, he was the chaplain of the Good Shepherd Home in Helena. He became the pastor of St. Richard Parish in Columbia Falls from 1965 to 1973, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Helena from 1973 to 1977, pastor of St. Catherine Parish in Boulder from 1977 to 1979, pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Townsend from 1979 to 1985 and pastor of St. Catherine Parish in Bigfork from 1985 until his retirement in 1994, and was granted Senior Status.

Father Hartman was always active in the communities where he served. He was the director of St. Helena Cathedral vested men and boy's choir and "Choir Boys" Camp at Legendary Lodge. He started the first Diocese Youth Camp at Legendary Lodge on Salmon Lake. He also taught theology at the former Girls Central High School in Butte and St. Helena Cathedral High. Father Hartman brought the Christian Family Movement to the diocese and also served on the board of the Helena Symphony Society and the United Way in Helena. Father "Bob" also directed the United Church Youth Christmas Choirs.

He is survived by two sisters and a brother-in-law, Cecelia Johnston of Olympia, Wash. and Wilma and Robert Morgan of Hayden Lake, Idaho; a brother and sister-in-law, Ray and Laurine Hartman of Polson; sisters-in-law, Gwen Hartman of Helena, Stasia Hartman of Burson, Calif. and Jean Hartman of Great Falls; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Father Hartman was preceded in death by four brothers, Leroy, Edward, Dutch and Peter L. Hartman.

The services will be held at the Cathedral of St. Helena where public visitation will be on Thursday from 1 to 4 p.m. The Vigil