

# The Rev. Gerald A. Boyle, Tarrytown pastor, dead at 53

By D. SCOTT FAUBEL  
Staff Writer

The Rev. Gerald Anthony Boyle, the 11th pastor of St. Teresa of Avila Roman Catholic Church, North Tarrytown, died Wednesday at the church rectory. He was 53 and had been the spiritual leader at St. Teresa's since 1974.

The pastor had been treated for cancer for two years and had undergone cobalt therapy Tuesday.

Cardinal Terence Cooke will be the principal celebrant Saturday morning at a Mass of Christian Burial to begin at 10 a.m. at St. Teresa's.

Father Boyle had been a champion of young people and the elderly while heading the 800-member parish and was an outspoken opponent of capital punishment.

The Rev. Gerald Vander Hart, pastor of the First Reformed Church in North Tarrytown, was a close friend of Father Boyle. "I really appreciated him," Vander Hart said. "He was a person you could relate to."

Vander Hart and Father Boyle also came together in the village on interfaith matters but, said Vander Hart, "The interfaith work was important, but on a personal level I was much closer to him."

North Tarrytown Trustee Peter Soriano,

a communicant at St. Teresa's, described Father Boyle as "a man of deep courage" in dealing with his ongoing bout with cancer.

Father Boyle, Soriano said, worked very hard with the young people of the parish when he first came to St. Teresa in 1974. He also reached out to the elderly and minority members of the congregation, Soriano said.

"He was a priest for all people, he led the whole flock," Soriano said. On his death, Soriano said, "I lost my confessor and my real good friend."

The pastor had described himself as a "brick and mortar priest."

He came to St. Teresa when the church was experiencing administration difficulties and within three years began a \$90,000 restoration job. That work started in 1977 to commemorate the 125th anniversary of St. Teresa in 1978.



The Rev. Gerald A. Boyle

Joseph Finnegan, a local real estate dealer and another communicant, called Father Boyle "a devoted and caring priest."

"It was a loss not only to St. Teresa's and North Tarrytown," Finnegan said, "but to the Archdiocese of New York."

Father Boyle served on the Senate of Priests for the New York Archdiocese and also helped develop the Personnel Board of the archdiocese.

A newspaper article in 1974, written shortly after Father Boyle assumed the St. Teresa pastorship, described him as "a man of commanding presence," "spirited" yet "composed," "sensitive" and "articulate."

He was involved with marriage counseling while a pastor in Goshen, N.Y. and was interested in philosophy and theology, hospital work and education.

Father Boyle was born in New York City, Jan. 6, 1929, the son of Charles J. and Mary McCarthy Boyle. He attended St. Frances de Chantal School in the Throggs Neck section of the Bronx and was a member of that parish. After graduation from St. Frances he went on Cathedral College in New York City.

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Father Boyle attended St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers and was ordained in St. Patrick's Cathedral by the late Cardinal Francis Spellman on May 14, 1954. In 1966 he earned a master's degree in psychology from Iona College.

The priest's first two-year assignment was at the Holy Name of Mary Church in Croton. He then went to Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Ardsley from 1956 to 1963. In 1963 Father Boyle became pastor at St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen where he served 11 years.

In July 1974 he was installed at St. Teresa's, succeeding Msgr. C. Hugo Doyle.

Father Boyle was the chaplain of St. Elmo's Council, Knights of Columbus, Tarrytown and of the North Tarrytown Fire Department. He was a member of Knollwood Country Club, Elmsford.

Surviving Father Boyle are two brothers, Charles J. of Syracuse and the Rev. Joseph M., OCSO, of St. Benedict's Abbey, Snowmass, Colo.; a sister, Joan E. Costello of Hillsdale, N.J.; four nephews and two nieces.

The pastor's body will repose at the Dwyer Funeral Home in Tarrytown. Visiting hours today are from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. and Friday, 2 to 4 p.m. The Mass of the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated by Bishop James P. Mahoney Friday at 8 p.m.

Burial will be at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Valhalla.