

Obituaries

Rev. Leonard Joseph Spraycar

The Rev. Leonard Joseph Spraycar, 63, chaplain at St. Patrick Hospital since July 1980, died of chronic heart disease Saturday at the home of his cousin, Jim Thomas, 2725 Mulberry Lane, Missoula.

Father Spraycar was active as a counselor and spiritual adviser to Missoula's alcoholics and also was a member of the staff at St. Patrick Hospital Alcoholism Treatment Center.

A native of Anaconda, he was born March 17, 1921, to John William and Mary Spraycar. He attended St. Peter's High School in Anaconda for two years before transferring to Anaconda High School where he graduated in 1939. He began preparing for the priesthood at Carroll College in Helena, completing his collegiate training at St. Edward's Seminary in Kenmore, Wash.

On May 31, 1947, he was ordained as a priest in the Helena diocese.

Before becoming chaplain at St. Patrick Hospital, Father Spraycar served as associate pastor at parishes in Butte, Anaconda and Helena, and as pastor in Helmville, Philipsburg, Fairfield, Columbia Falls, Anaconda and Dutton.

He was a member of St. Anthony's parish in Missoula and the Knights of Columbus. He also was active in the St. Peter and St. Paul Society Creation Fraternal Union and National Clergy Conference on Alcoholism and Related Drugs.

Survivors include his aunt, Ann Thomas, Santa Ana, Calif.; his uncle, Nick Thomas, Anaconda; and numerous cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Mary, and by his sister, Mae Teresa.

Visitation will be held Monday from 2 to 9 p.m. at St. Anthony Church, with a vigil service at 7:30 p.m. A funeral Mass will be said Tuesday at noon at St. Anthony's, with the Rev. Albert Kaparich of Butte concelebrating with priests of the Missoula Deanery.

In Anaconda, visitation will be held at St. Peter's Church on Tuesday from 5 until 9 p.m., and on Wednesday from 9 a.m. until noon. Bishop Eldon Curtiss of Helena will officiate at a Mass in St. Peter's Church at noon. Burial will be in the priest plot of Mount Olivet Cemetery in Anaconda.

Names of pallbearers will be announced at a later date. Funeral arrangements are by Livingston-Malletta & Geraghty Funeral Home in Missoula.

Memorials may be made to the new St. Patrick Hospital Chapel Fund and to the Diocesan Seminary Fund.



Rev. Leonard Spraycar