

Rev. Spanburgh, served St. Joseph's Parish, WNY

The Rev. Leonard P. Spanburgh, 58, a former Jersey City resident who was formerly assigned to St. Joseph's Parish, West New York, died yesterday at Mountainside Hospital, Glen Ridge.

At the time of his death, Rev. Spanburgh was associate pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Church in Cedar Grove.

Born in Jersey City, he attended St. Nicholas School and Dickinson High School.

After a year at New York University he went to work at Western Electric in Kearny until he entered the Army in 1945.

After being discharged he attended Seton Hall University and graduated in 1951. He then enrolled as a seminary student and continued his studies at Seton Hall and Darlington Seminary. He was ordained May 23, 1959.

Rev. Spanburgh was an accomplished artist and is best known for a series of paintings on the Jewish Holocaust.

When he was assigned to St. Joseph's Parish in West New York, Rev. Spanburgh developed a reputation for helping

the poor and organized the Little House of Joseph that provided much needed help for thousands of Cuban refugees. Before leaving the parish, he was preaching Sunday masses in Spanish.

Rev. Spanburgh came to St. Catherine's in September 1964 and directed the school of religion for 12 years. He also taught in all grades of the parish school and was active in community affairs. He was a founder of the Inter-Faith Coffee House.

Rev. Spanburgh served as vice president and president of the drug advisory committee of Cedar Grove and was on the board of directors of the town teen center. He also served, for the past 15 years, on the North Essex Development and Action Committee.

There will be a public viewing at the Cedar Grove Memorial Funeral Home tomorrow at 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Rev. Spanburgh's body will then be transferred to St. Catherine's to lie in state Monday beginning at 3 p.m.

On Tuesday at 10:30

a.m. a mass will be said. Interment will take place at Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Upper Montclair. Arrangements are by Cedar Grove Memorial Funeral Home, Cedar Grove.