

Rev. William R. Smalley, 74; served with Secaucus church

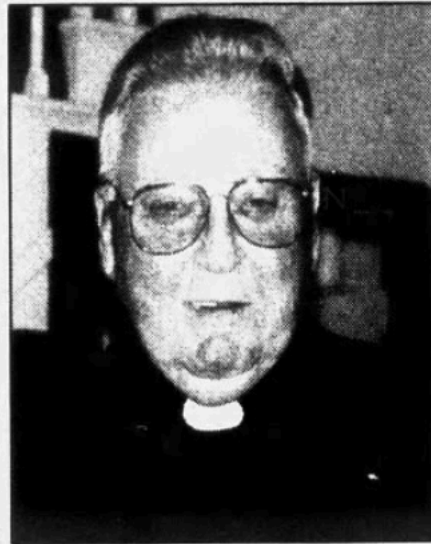
Mass for the Rev. William R. Smalley, 74, a Bayonne-born priest who had dedicated his life to serving churches in Secaucus, Hillside and Irvington, will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Bayonne. He died Friday at Martin Memorial Medical Center, Stuart, Fla.

Smalley was known for his sense of humor. His brother, Denis, recalled how while in the hospital for open heart surgery, Smalley was blessed by the late Cardinal John O'Connor of New York and then turned around and blessed O'Connor.

"He was always willing to roll up his sleeves and pitch in, often sacrificing himself for those in need," said his brother Denis. "He was very loving to his family, and very devoted to his God, his country, and to his fellow man."

Smalley served as assistant pastor at Immaculate Conception Church, Secaucus from 1955-1961 and Christ the King, Hillside, from 1961-1979. He assumed the pastorate at St. Paul's, Irvington, in 1979, working there until he retired in 1998 and moved to Ginsen Beach, Fla.

Along with his parish duties, Smalley served as a military chaplain in the U.S. Air Force Auxilary Civil Air Patrol. His skills recognized, as he was promoted from captain to brigadier general and also assumed other leadership positions.



REV. WILLIAM R. SMALLEY

In 1994, he established a Chaplain Corps for the U.S. Service Command and was appointed deputy chief of chaplains for the entire U.S. Service Command.

Smalley attended St. Vincent dePaul School and Bayonne Technical High School before studying for the priesthood at Seton Hall University and Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington. He was ordained at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Newark, in 1955 — the first class to be ordained in the cathedral. He later received his Master of Divinity degree from Immaculate Conception Theological School.

Surviving are two brothers, Denis and Robert; and seven nieces and nephews.

Sweeney Funeral Home, Bayonne, is in charge.