

Father Thomas Rainforth, 72; retired priest

FATHER THOMAS RAINFORTH

PATERSON Bishop Serratelli presided at a Mass of Christian Burial in St. Michael Church here Aug. 8 for Father Thomas Rainforth, a retired priest of the Diocese of Paterson, who died July 31 in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Ordained to the priesthood on May 5, 1973, in St. John's Cathedral, Paterson, he faithfully served in priestly ministry for 46 years.

A native of Newark, he was graduated from the former Essex Catholic High School, East Orange. He began his priesthood studies at Mount St. Paul College in Waukesha, Wis., and completed his studies at St. Mary Seminary and University, Baltimore. He also held a master's degree in gerontology from the College of New Rochelle, N.Y., and served on the gerontology advisory committee at Seton Hall University, South Orange.

During his priestly ministry, he served as parochial vicar at St. Joseph, Mendham; St. Paul, Clifton; Sacred Heart, Dover; St. Paul Prospect Park; St. Catherine, Ringwood, and St. Philip, Clifton. He served as pastor of St. James, Montague and St. Thomas, Sandyston (1996-97). He also served as a chaplain at Straight & Narrow, Paterson, and at St. Joseph Medical Center, Paterson, and St. Joseph Wayne Hospital before retiring.

Interment was at Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Montclair.