

Veteran Nevada Priest Dies

Monsignor Robert Cornelius Anderson, 62, pastor of Our Lady of Tahoe Parish, Zephyr Cove, and director of the Frontier of the Faith, died Tuesday following a lengthy illness in a Reno hospital.

Anderson was elevated to the rank of Prelate of Honor to Pope Paul VI last April 10, but was unable to attend the ceremonies held at St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral in Reno because he was recuperating then from an operation in Cincinnati, Ohio.

His death is the third in less than two months among eight Nevada priests who were elevated to the Prelate of Honor rank and given the title of Reverend Monsignor.

Monsignor Charles Righini of Reno died May 15, and Msgr. Charles Shallow of Las Vegas died May 1.

Anderson was a native of Cincinnati and was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Reno on Sept. 20, 1942, at St. Thomas Aquinas.

After serving as assistant pastor in several parishes, as a high school teacher, and on the staff of the Nevada Catholic Welfare Bureau, he was appointed pastor of St. Patrick's Parish, Fallon, in 1953. At the same time he served as director of the Frontier of the Faith, the diocesan office responsible for securing support for needy parishes.

He also served for a short period as editor of the diocesan newspaper and played an important role in the foundation of the diocesan congregation of religious brothers.

On July 6, 1956, he was honored by Pope Pius XII with the title of Papal Chamberlain. He was appointed afterwards as rector of St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral, and subsequently served as pastor of St. Peter's Parish, Henderson.

He had also served as assistant pastor in Ely, Las Vegas, Reno and Sparks and administered parishes in McGill and Boulder City. He served as diocesan director of Catholic Welfare and as state moderator of the Councils of Catholic Men, Women, and Youth.

He was also a professor and director of athletics at Bishop Manogue High School.

The Rosary will be recited at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral, where his body will lie in state from 1 p.m. that day.

Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Friday in St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral, with burial to follow in Our Mother of Sorrows Cemetery.

Bishop Norman McFarland of the Reno-Las Vegas diocese said Tuesday, "Monsignor Robert Anderson was a good and generous servant of the church in Nevada, completely devoted to the work of the priesthood, and his loss will be keenly felt both by the church at large and by me personally.

"Love of the church in Nevada was his outstanding characteristic and showed itself particularly in his enthusiastic willingness to serve however he was needed.

"He was a big man in more ways than one, and he will be sorely missed."