

The Rev. Robert D. Despars

A memorial Mass is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. today at St. Therese of the Little Flower Catholic Church for the Rev. Robert David Despars.

Despars, 56, a longtime Nevada priest, died Saturday in a Las Vegas hospital.

A native of Los Angeles, he was born Jan. 13, 1927, and was educated there. After completing his seminary training he was ordained to the priesthood on June 12, 1952. He moved to Nevada following ordination.

Despars served as an associate pastor at St. Thomas Aquinas Cathedral and St. Albert the Great parish. His first pastorate was at the Holy Family Church in Las Vegas from 1962-68, and he served as pastor at St. Christopher's in Las Vegas and St. Therese of the Little Flower.

In 1975 he was appointed administrator of St. Bridget's in Las Vegas. He resigned in 1979 for health reasons.

From 1952-62, Despars was involved with the Catholic Welfare Bureau in Reno as well as with Bishop Manogue High School.

Surviving are a brother, Edward of Canoga Park, Calif., and a sister, Mary Baker of Los Angeles.

A funeral Mass is scheduled for 11 a.m. today at the Guardian Angel Cathedral in Las Vegas with burial at the Eden Valley Cemetery.

Bunker Mortuary, Las Vegas, is in charge of arrangements.