

Rev. Anthony Paone, 77, Jesuit, author

The Rev. Anthony J. Paone, 77, a Jesuit priest born in West Brighton and author of the million-selling religious book "My Daily Bread," died Monday in the Murray-Weigel Health Care Center at Fordham University, the Bronx.

Following his graduation from Port Richmond High School and a year of study at Fordham, he entered the Society of Jesus Seminary in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., in 1932. He completed studies in the humanities there in 1936.

For the next three years, he studied philosophy at St. Michael's College, Toronto. He taught Latin, English and French from 1939-42 at St. Peter's College in Jersey City.

He studied theology at Weston (Maine) College from 1942-43 and from 1943-45 Woodstock (Md.) College. He was ordained in 1945.

Father Paone celebrated his first mass on June 25 of that year in St. Benedicta's R.C. Church, West Brighton. He was soon assigned to the former Brooklyn Preparatory School, where he taught Latin, English, French, Spanish, German and religion for 27 years. He chaired the school's language department and from 1962-67 was spiritual director of the school's Jesuit community.

He was the summer chaplain to the Boy Scouts of America in Ten Mile River, N.Y., for more than 25

years. In addition, Father Paone conducted religious retreats for Staten Island scouts during the 1950s. For his service to scouting, he received the Silver Beaver award from the organization.

During his time at Brooklyn Prep, Father Paone wrote and had published "My Daily Bread" (1954), "My Life with Christ" (1962) and "My Daily Life" (1970).

"My Daily Bread," a book written to help people apply religion to their daily lives, has been translated into several languages and has sold more than 1.5 million copies worldwide.

Father Paone told the Advance in a 1954 interview that the book, written in the form of conversations with God, teaches mental prayer through practice rather than theory.

Following the closure of Brooklyn Prep in 1972, he taught French and Spanish for several years at Cathedral College of the Immaculate Conception seminary in Douglaston, Queens, where he was also spiritual director.

Surviving are two brothers, Emil and Herman, and two sisters, Helen Paone and Belia Maramarco.

There was to be a funeral mass this morning in the chapel of Murray-Weigel Hall at Fordham. Burial was to be in the Jesuit Cemetery, Auriesville, N.Y.