

OBITUARIES

Rev. Francis B. Baratto, parochial vicar

Bishop Edward D. Head of the Buffalo Catholic Diocese will be principal celebrant at a Mass of Christian Burial for the Rev. Francis B. Baratto, parochial vicar of St. Andrew's Catholic Church in the Town of Tonawanda.

The Mass will be offered at 10 a.m. Thursday in St. Andrew's Church, 1525 Sheridan Drive. A parish Mass will be offered at 7 p.m. Wednesday in St. Andrew's. Burial will be in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Cheektowaga.

Father Baratto, a Catholic priest for the past 39 years, died Sunday (Sept. 6, 1992) in Kenmore Mercy Hospital, Town of Tonawanda, after a short illness. He was 63.

Born and reared in Buffalo, Father Baratto was ordained in 1953 in St. Joseph's New Cathedral after graduating from Christ the King Seminary, which was then a part of St. Bonaventure University.

He was parochial vicar at St. Andrew's for the past four years, teaching religious classes in the



church school, visiting the sick in Kenmore Mercy Hospital and holding weekly Novena services in the church for sick and troubled parishioners.

Before coming to St. Andrew's, Father Baratto was pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Buffalo and had been an associate pastor at numerous churches, including St. Louis in Buffalo, St. Gregory the Great in Amherst and St. Francis of Assisi in the City of Tonawanda.

Father Baratto devoted many of his early years in the priesthood to working with young people, serving as director of the Diocesan Educational Campus in Buffalo and as chaplain of the Erie Community College Newman Club and Mount St. Joseph's Academy. He also was chaplain of the University of Notre Dame Alumni Club for 21 years.

He conducted more than 100 retreats with high school and college students and addressed more than 50 graduating classes at various schools.

He also was a member of the 100 Club of Buffalo.

Surviving are two brothers, Victor of the Town of Tonawanda and Albert of Orchard Park.