

OBITUARIES

Monsignor Edward L. Kazmierczak, pastor

Monsignor Edward L. Kazmierczak, who hosted a visit to Buffalo by Cardinal Karol Wojtyla of Poland before the cardinal became Pope John Paul II, died Sunday (June 3, 2001) in Millard Fillmore Suburban Hospital, Amherst, after a long illness. He was 74.

A priest for 50 years, Monsignor Kazmierczak met Cardinal Wojtyla during a visit to Poland in 1972. As pastor of St. Casimir's Catholic Church in Buffalo's Kaisertown neighborhood, Monsignor Kazmierczak played host to the future pope when he visited Buffalo for four days in July 1976.

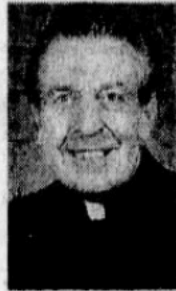
During that visit, Cardinal Wojtyla dedicated St. Casimir's new Shrine of Our Lady of Victory and walked in a procession with Monsignor Kazmierczak along Cable and Casimir streets.

Two years later, the Buffalo priest attended Cardinal Wojtyla's investiture as Pope John Paul II in Rome and embraced his longtime friend.

Monsignor Kazmierczak retired in 1994 after serving for 22 years as pastor of St. Casimir's. For the last two years, he had resided in Brothers of Mercy Nursing Home, Clarence.

Before going to St. Casimir's, he served for three years as pastor of St. Valentine's Parish, Buffalo.

He had been assistant pastor of St. John Kanty, Buffalo; St. John Gualbert, Cheektowaga; and St. Barbara's, Lackawanna, and was



administrator of St. Mary's, Arcade.

A Buffalo native, Monsignor Kazmierczak was ordained May 19, 1951, in St. Joseph's New Cathedral, Buffalo. He was named a monsignor in 1972.

He was a graduate of Canisius High School; St. Mary's College, Orchard Lake, Mich.; and Our Lady of the Angels Seminary at Niagara University.

Monsignor Kazmierczak was a member of the Diocesan Board of Consultors, president of the Association of Diocesan Clergy for Polish Affairs, moderator of the East Buffalo First Friday Club and a member of the Orchard Lake Schools Board of Regents and the Diocesan Committee for the Observance of the Tercentenary of Our Lady of Czestochowa.

He also was moderator of the Diocesan Young Ladies Sodality Union; Taft Division of the Catholic Youth Organization; Father Justin Council, Knights of Columbus; the Chopin Singing Society; and Rescue Hose Fire Company No. 1.

Monsignor Kazmierczak is survived by four sisters, Dolores Polanski of West Seneca, Antoinette Mardel of Houston, Phyllis Motyka of Lackawanna and Barbara Bernas of Buffalo, and two brothers, James of Buffalo and Dennis of West Seneca.

Bishop Henry J. Mansell will be principal celebrant of a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. Thursday in St. Casimir's Church, Weimer and Casimir Streets. Burial will be in St. Stanislaus Cemetery, Cheektowaga.