

# William J. Honer, educator

William J. Honer, 69, a former Catholic priest and educator who worked for the state Office of Mental Health after leaving the priesthood, died unexpectedly Wednesday (Nov. 27, 2002) after being stricken in his Buffalo home.

A Buffalo native, Honer was ordained in Rome in December 1957. He received bachelor's and master's degrees from Urbanian University in Rome, before earning a master of science degree in education and counseling at Canisius College.

During his 23 years in the priesthood, Honer served as assistant pastor at St. Ambrose Catholic Church before becoming associate pastor at St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Hamburg in 1971. As a priest, he worked as both a high school teacher and counselor. In 1972 he was elected board chairman of the Buffalo Priests Association.

After leaving the priesthood, Honer worked as a standards compliance analyst for the state Office of Mental Health, inspecting and licensing mental health programs throughout Western New York. He retired in 1998.

An active participant and volunteer in church activities, Honer recently returned from Guatemala, where he worked at a Carmelite mission for 10 days earlier this month.

Honer enjoyed reading, carpentry and writing, and was a basketball fan.

Surviving are his longtime companion, Mary T. Dyckman of Buffalo; two stepdaughters, Leigh Murak of Amherst and Jeanne Dyckman of Buffalo; one stepson, James Dyckman of Charlotte,

N.C.; two sisters, Margaret Gamble and Barbara Edwards, both of Charlotte; two brothers, James of Buffalo and Thomas of Tampa, Fla.; and one grandchild.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 9:30 a.m. Monday in St. Margaret's Catholic Church, 1395 Hertel Ave. Prayers will be said 8:45 in Amigone Funeral Home, 569 Cleveland Drive, Cheektowaga. Burial will be in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Town of Tonawanda.

