

Monsignor Richard Crumlish, retired pastor

May 11, 1921 — April 15, 2006



Monsignor Richard C. Crumlish, retired pastor of St. Bonaventure Catholic Church in West Seneca, died Saturday in Kenmore Mercy Hospital, Town of Tonawanda, under Hospice care. He was 84.

Born in Buffalo, he attended the Little Seminary in Buffalo and St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester and was ordained in 1945 in St. Joseph Cathedral.

After serving for a year at St. Anthony Church in Batavia, he was assigned to St. Martin in Buffalo from 1946 to 1952; St. John the Evangelist in Buffalo until 1956; St. Brigid in Buffalo until 1960; and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Lake View until 1968.

He was named pastor of St. Monica in 1969. He was pastor of

St. Bonaventure from 1973 to 1996, when he retired.

"He was exceedingly humble, truly a priest of the people," said a niece, Phyllis Drews of Buffalo. "On his days off, he would celebrate Mass in nursing homes and spent much of his time visiting the sick."

Proud of his Irish heritage, Monsignor Crumlish frequently visited Ireland and Australia.

He was a member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Knights of Columbus and was active with the Irish Center in South Buffalo. He was a regular marcher in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be offered by Auxiliary Bishop Edward M. Grosz at 10:30 a.m. Friday in Our Lady of Victory Basilica, Ridge Road and South Park Avenue, Lackawanna. Burial will be in Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna.