

Obituaries

Msgr. Joseph M. McPherson Dies; Headed OLV Homes of Charity in Lackawanna

Monsignor Joseph M. McPherson, 73, chairman of the board of Our Lady of Victory Homes of Charity in Lackawanna, died Friday (Nov. 26, 1982) in Our Lady of Victory Hospital.

Monsignor McPherson, a Buffalo native who was ordained in 1936, served at the highest administration levels at Our Lady of Victory Homes of Charity for 46 years.

Bishop Edward D. Head will be the principal celebrant at 7 p.m. Monday at a Mass for employees and friends in Our Lady of Victory Basilica. Bishop Bernard J. McLaughlin will be the principal celebrant at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at

a Mass of Christian Burial, also in the Basilica. Burial will follow in Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Monsignor McPherson is credited with shaping many of the programs at Our Lady of Victory during his 30 years as manager of Our Lady of Victory Homes of Charity, a post he resigned in 1979 due to ill health.

He remained, however, as chairman of the board and honorary director of the boards of Our Lady of Victory Infant Home, Baker Hall and Our Lady of Victory Hospital.

The youngest of nine children, Monsignor McPherson grew up on Buffalo's West Side, where he was

graduated from Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary School.

"I can't remember when I didn't want to be a priest," Monsignor McPherson told an interviewer last year.

For him, the first step in realizing his dream was serving as an altar boy at Nativity.

He attended St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, but at the urging of his great aunt, the late Mother Mary Anne Burke of the Sisters of St. Joseph, the young boy entered the Diocesan Preparatory Seminary. He was assigned to the North American University in Louvain, Belgium, and completed his theological studies at Christ the King Seminary, formerly at St. Bonaventure University in Olean.

He was ordained on June 6, 1936, by the late Bishop William Turner.

Monsignor McPherson's first visit to Our Lady of Victory was in 1936, when he was assigned for three years to assist Monsignor Nelson Baker, OLV founder.

He spent the next decade in parish duties assigned to St. Paul's in



MSGR. JOSEPH M. McPHERSON

Kenmore and St. Bartholomew's in Buffalo.

In 1946, he was named diocesan Seneca, and a sister, Patricia Paladino of Kenmore.

Funeral arrangements were made by the Norman E. Gannon & Sons Funeral Home, 1075 Ridge Road, Lackawanna.