

OBITUARIES

Rev. Gerald P. Sheehan, Catholic priest

Jan. 2, 1938 — June 12, 2006



The Rev. Gerald P. Sheehan, a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo for 42 years, died in his sleep Monday in the rectory of St. John Bosco

Church in Sheridan. He was 68.

Father Sheehan was pastor of St. John Bosco and St. Rose of Lima in Forestville.

The Buffalo native attended Little Seminary of St. Joseph and the Little Flower of Jesus in Buffalo. He also was a graduate of Our Lady of the Angels, Niagara University and St. John Vianney Seminary — now Christ the King — in East Aurora.

He was ordained in St. Joseph New Cathedral in 1964 by Bishop James A. McNulty. Father Sheehan's first assignment was as a missionary apostolate at St. Brendan Parish in Almond. In 1965, he was appointed assistant pastor of St. Martin of Tours in South Buffalo, where he stayed until 1974.

He served as assistant pastor of Prince of Peace in Niagara Falls from 1974 to 1976 and as assistant pastor of Nativity of Our Lord in Orchard Park from 1976 to 1982.

He became pastor of St. John Bosco in 1982 and was named pastor of St. Rose of Lima in 1987.

Father Sheehan also served on the diocesan marriage tribu-

nal in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

He was a co-founder of Sheridan Happy Seniors in 1985. A fierce defender of Catholic teaching, Father Sheehan was a frequent contributor to the letters page of the Dunkirk Observer, often weighing in on the issues of the day.

Survivors include three sisters, Marie Nixon, Ellen Yormick and Jean Lenox, and a brother, William.

Parish Masses will be offered at 7 p.m. Thursday in St. John Bosco Church, 2773 Main Road, Sheridan, and 7 p.m. Friday in St. Rose of Lima Church, 11 Center St., Forestville.

Auxiliary Bishop Edward M. Grosz will preside at a Mass of Christian Burial at 9:30 a.m. Saturday in St. Rose of Lima Church. Burial will be in Holy Cross Cemetery, Lackawanna.