

Rev. Maurice Carroll, 68, Farrell teacher, pastor

By **MIKE AZZARA**
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

The Rev. Maurice Carroll, 68, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul R.C. Church, Manhattan, and one of the most beloved teachers in the history of Monsignor Farrell High School, Oakwood, where he taught for 18 years, died Tuesday after suffering a heart attack while on a visit to Chicago, Ill.

Born in the Bronx, Father Carroll was assigned to Monsignor Farrell from September 1963 through June 1981. Fluent in French, he had been pastor at St. Vincent de Paul, said to be the last French-speaking parish in the city, since 1981.

Father Carroll studied for the priesthood at the University of Louvain in Belgium.

He was on the grounds of Mundelein Seminary in Chicago where he was to attend the ordination of seminarians when he suffered the fatal attack.

The words most often used to describe Father Carroll were "cultured" and "refined." A former colleague at Farrell, Monsignor Thomas Bergin, vicar for education for the Archdiocese of New York, said he "turned-on many students, including athletes, to the worlds of culture, including theater, opera and other arts."

The Rev. Emmett Nevin, principal of Farrell, remembered the former teacher as a "kindly man who was loved and respected by all." Father Carroll, he added, "was a holy man, a gentleman and a scholar. His unexpected death is a great loss to his parishioners as well as the archdiocese."

"He was a dynamic teacher and a Renaissance man," declared the Rev. John D. Burke, pastor of Holy Child R.C. Church, Eltingville, and a close friend. "He loved music and art and most of all, God."

It is a view echoed by two members of the Advance staff. Lou

Bergonzi, sports editor, who was taught by and later taught with Father Carroll, said he always asked the priest for recommendations on Broadway shows. Michael Fressola, arts editor, who was in Father Carroll's Latin classes, said he would call him from time to time in recent years to "ask what he was reading at the moment."

Father Carroll held a bachelor's degree from Cathedral College, Manhattan, and St. Joseph's Seminary in Dunwoodie, N.Y. He earned his bachelor of sacred theology degree at the University of Louvain, where he was ordained in 1956.

"He was a world traveler and the most entertaining and fascinating conversationalist you could meet and one of the finest gentlemen I've ever known," Monsignor Bergin said. The monsignor, Bergonzi and Fressola used almost identical language in reporting that Father Carroll "never raised his voice."

In his efforts to expose students to "whole worlds of culture" they otherwise might have missed, Monsignor Bergin added, "he was kind of a priestly Auntie Mame," a semi-fictional character who did the same for her nephew in the Broadway play.

In addition to Latin and French, Father Carroll taught advanced placement English, English honors and classic theater. He also moderated the Dramatics Club.

He is survived by a sister, Eileen McKeown.

There will be a concelebrated mass tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in St. Vincent de Paul Church. The funeral will be Saturday with a mass at 11 a.m. in the church, at 123 West 23rd St. Arrangements are being handled by the Horne-Dannecker Funeral Home, Manhattan. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery, Queens.