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Fr. Sylvester Daniel Penna

BIRTH 6 Feb 1912
Spokane, Spokane County, Washington, USA

DEATH 8 Jan 1974 (aged 61)
Salem, Marion County, Oregon, USA

BURIAL Jesuit Cemetery of the Oregon Province
Spokane, Spokane County, Washington, USA Add to Map

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Fr. Sylvester Penna was ordained a priest of the Oregon Province in 1948, who also served in the Diocese of San Jose. According to media reports, Penna's name was included on the Oregon Province's 2011 list of clergy credibly accused of child sexual abuse. In 2018, his name was also included on the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings list, as well as on the Jesuits West Province list of clergy credibly accused of child sexual abuse. It noted allegations reported in 2009 in reference to abuse that is believed to have taken place in 1951-1957. Information about the age/gender of his alleged victim/victims or the nature of the alleged sexual abuse is unknown.

Fr. Penna died in 1974.

—Source: Adam Horowitz Law

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Rosary will be at 7:30 p.m. today and Mass at 9 a.m. Friday in St. Ignatius Catholic Church, Portland, for the Rev. Sylvester Daniel Penna, 61, of 1025 Columbia St. NE, associate priest at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church here since September, who died Tuesday of an apparent heart attack while conducting services at the church. Interment will be in St. Michael Cemetery, Spokane, Washington.

Rigdon-Ransom Colonial Chapel has charge of arrangements.

The Rev. Mr. Penna came here from Enterprise, wheere he was a parish priest. Earlier he had served as an educator at St. Jude's Parish in Havre, Montana, and as assistant to the superior of the Jesuit community at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.

Survivors include two sisters, Josephine Palumbo, Portland, and Mary Piper, Spokane, and two brothers, Dr. Otto Penna and Emery Penna, both of Spokane.

—From The Capital Journal; Thursday, January 10, 1974

Gravesite Details

First name misspelled "Silvester" on headstone, but "Sylvester" is the correct spelling based on all other records modern and contemporaneous.