

# Father Thomas Carey was senior priest in archdiocese

Father Thomas Patrick Carey, the senior priest of the archdiocese, died March 3—eight weeks short of his 89th birthday.

A funeral Mass was celebrated on March 6 at St. Paul Hermitage in



Father Thomas P. Carey

Beech Grove. On March 5, Father Carey's body was received at Christ the King Church in Indianapolis for a prayer vigil and visitation.

Born to Irish-immigrant parents, Thomas Carey began his schooling at St. Patrick

School in Indianapolis. He continued his education at the former St. Catherine

School in Indianapolis after his family moved to that parish. He attended Cathedral High School when the then-boys' school was located at 14th and Meridian streets in Indianapolis.

Ordained on May 22, 1934, at Saint Meinrad Archabbey by then-Bishop Joseph E. Ritter, Father Carey celebrated his First Mass at St. Catherine Church.

He began his priestly ministry for a few weeks as assistant pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis.

When Msgr. Joseph E. Hamill was named pastor of Holy Trinity Parish in New Albany, the monsignor asked that the ordinand be appointed as his assistant. Father Carey remained in the New Albany parish for 15 years, developing a youth ministry program there.

Providence Sister Marie Kevin Tighe was a child and lived next door to the church when Father Carey arrived at Holy Trinity Parish.

She remembers how he coordinated dozens of ambitious parish and community projects that involved the youth in varied sports, music and drama activities.

He also coordinated publication of a newsletter from Holy Trinity to young parishioners in the armed forces during World War II.

In 1949, he became pastor at St. Mary-

of-the-Rock Parish, in Franklin County near Batesville, and its mission church, St. Philomena, which was renamed St. Cecilia of Rome in 1961.

He was named administrator of St. Joseph Parish in Indianapolis in 1951, and became pastor there a year later. In 1962, he was named pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Indianapolis.

Father Carey was appointed pastor of Christ the King Parish in Indianapolis in 1963, a position he held until his retirement in 1980. Under his pastorate, the present church was built.

Since 1987, he lived at St. Paul Hermitage in Beech Grove. Last year, he saw his dream of a retirement home for priests become a reality there.

At the April 25 dedication, he told of his advocacy for the project while he was on the Priests' Personnel Board.

"I've always loved people," Father Carey said that day. "I thank God for helping me with my attitude. I've been able to stand through sad and glad events."

He continued to celebrate Mass in nearby parishes when he was in his mid-80s, until his vision became a handicap.

Father Carey, who described himself as "talkative," was disappointed when he "began to find it too difficult to assemble a homily. ... When I couldn't, it was a big surprise for me—and I think for every-

body who knew me!"

Two days before his death, Sister Marie Kevin asked Father Carey what he loved most about being a priest. "Celebrating Mass, of course," he answered. "I always wanted to be like Father Albert Deery. He was so good with young people."

Sister Marie Kevin saw him achieve that dream. She called Father Carey a very warm, open-hearted and loving priest who reached out to people of all ages. He was also concerned with those who were elderly and sick, spending many hours visiting them.

"He had a wonderful sense of humor," Sister Marie Kevin said, "but he also had a serious side."

She related the story a woman told at her anniversary celebration 50 years after Father Carey officiated at her marriage. After the rehearsal, he took the hand of the bride-to-be and placed it in the groom's hand. He said, "Remember, what this is all about is taking each other to heaven."

The bride remembered her prayers that night: "This is serious!"

When a fellow cleric called Father Carey a priest's priest, Sister Kevin Marie said, "Actually, he was everyone's priest."

Father Carey is survived by a cousin, Agnes Rembusch. †

## Official Appointments

### Effective Immediately

**Rev. John A. Meyer**, pastor of Prince of Peace Parish, Madison, and Most Sorrowful Mother of God Parish, Vevay, reappointed for a second six-year term.