



Catholic Diocese of Columbus

Communications Office

PHONE 614•241•2555

FAX 614•241•2557

E-MAIL commailbox@colsdio.org

News

OBITUARY



Monsignor Bennett, Priest for 51 Years, Dies

The Reverend Monsignor Thomas M. Bennett died on Sunday, September 7, 2008 at Mohun Health Care Center in Columbus.

The son of John and Helen (Strawinski) Zbytniewski, Monsignor Bennett was born November 18, 1931 in Detroit, Michigan. He was preceded in death by his parents and brothers Clarence, Ernest, and John. He is survived by brothers Charles and Paul Bennett.

Monsignor Bennett attended elementary and high school at St. Gregory School, Detroit. He studied at St. Charles College Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, where he received a B.A. in Philosophy in 1953. He subsequently studied theology at St. Mary Major Seminary, Norwood, Ohio, from which he graduated in 1957. Monsignor Bennett was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Columbus on May 25, 1957, at St. Joseph Cathedral by Bishop Edward Hettinger. In 1992, he was named a Monsignor when the Holy Father John Paul II bestowed upon him the title of Prelate of Honor.

His assignments included assistant pastor St. Joseph Cathedral (1957-1960), Blessed Sacrament Church, Newark (1960-1963) and St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Columbus (1963-1964). He served as an instructor at Newark Catholic High School (1960-1963) before beginning his 46-year tenure as an instructor at St. Charles Seminary (now St. Charles Preparatory High School). During this time, Monsignor Bennett provided sacramental assistance at several Columbus parishes, most recently at Immaculate Conception Church, Columbus. In addition, Monsignor Bennett served as Administrator Pro Tem at St. Catharine of Siena Church, Columbus (1978) and Church of the Ascension, Johnstown (1981-1982). Monsignor Bennett was appointed Diocesan Archivist in 1988 and continued in this capacity until his death.

Monsignor Bennett's body will be received at St. Charles High School Chapel, 2010 E. Broad St. at noon, Wednesday September 10, where friends may call until 8:00 p.m. and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to noon at St. Charles High School, Walters Commons, where the Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 12:30 p.m. Bishop Frederick F. Campbell will be the principal celebrant and Monsignor Kenneth F. Grimes will offer the homily. Interment at St. Joseph Cemetery, Lockbourne, Ohio will follow the funeral Mass.