

Fr. Werner Verhoff

Fr. Werner Verhoff, C.P.P.S., 92, died Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009, at Community Hospital, Coldwater, of complications following a fall.



He was born April 19, 1917, in Kallida, to Mathias and Philomena (Up-haus) Verhoff. He entered the Missionaries of the Precious Blood in 1931 and was ordained on May 9, 1943.

Fr. Verhoff spent more than 50 years of active ministry as a pastor. After his ordination he was an associate pastor at churches in St. Henry Tulsa, Okla., Newark, and Cleveland before being named pastor of Queen of Angels Church in Hamilton in 1952. He returned to Cleveland in 1955 as assistant pastor of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament Church. From 1957 to 1968 he was the pastor of St. Edward Church in Cleveland, where he ministered to African-American Catholics.

Other churches where he served as pastor include Holy Name Church in Cincinnati, 1968-69; Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Ottawa, 1969-79; and St. Bernard Church in Burkettsville, 1979-91. In 1991 he was named senior associate pastor at Precious Blood Church in Fort Wayne, Ind., where he served until he retired to St. Charles Center in Carthage in 1999.

As a pastor and as a man, he was a kind, gentle soul who was welcoming and a good listener, said his friends and family. Fr. Henry Frantz, C.P.P.S., who served alongside him at a neighboring parish in Cleveland, said that Fr. Verhoff was "a dedicated and faithful Missionary of the Precious Blood."

Fr. Verhoff was the last surviving member of his immediate family, which included four brothers, Ambrose, Victor, Mathias and Br. Michael Verhoff, C.P.P.S.; and two sisters, Rosalia Shunpike and Armella Turnwald. He is survived by a sister-in-law, Lucille Verhoff, Columbia, S.C., and numerous nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated Saturday, Sept. 12, 2009, at St. Charles Center with the Rev. Angelo Anthony, C.P.P.S., officiating. Burial followed in the Community cemetery. Hogenkamp Funeral Home in St. Henry handled the arrangements.