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Monsignor Richard T. Nugent, honored by pope

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March 4, 1925—Oct. 16, 2009

Monsignor Richard T. Nugent, longtime pastor of St. Bernadette Parish in Orchard Park, died Friday in Sisters Hospital following a brief illness. He was 84.

Born in Buffalo, Father Nugent graduated from Diocesan Preparatory Seminary, Buffalo, St. Bonaventure College, Olean, and Christ the King Seminary at St. Bonaventure University.

He was ordained on June 4, 1949, in St. Joseph New Cathedral.

From 1974 to 2007, he served as pastor of St. Bernadette Catholic Church. When he retired, he was named pastor emeritus of the parish.

Other parish assignments included St. Mark's in Rushford, SS. Peter&Paul in Hamburg and Immaculate Conception in East Aurora.

He also served in several diocesan capacities, including director of vocation, director of retreats, associate director of Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, associate vicar for religious and notary of the Tribunal.

Father Nugent was named Prelate of Honor by Pope Paul VI in 1972 and Protonotary Apostolic Supernumerary by Pope Benedict XVI in 2008.

In 2003, Father Nugent wrote the book, "Reflections in Honor of God the Father," featuring columns he penned for the St. Bernadette Parish bulletin as pastor. "Reflections II" is scheduled to be published next month, with proceeds benefiting St. Bernadette School.

"Monsignor Nugent was a dedicated servant of the people," said Bishop Edward U. Kmiec of the Diocese of Buffalo. "He loved being a priest and being a pastor. For more than 33 years, he worked with the people of St. Bernadette's to make the parish an inviting, welcoming, faith-filled community."

Father Nugent was a 3rd Degree member of the Hamburg Council, Knights of Columbus, and 4th Degree member of the Buffalo Council, Knights of Columbus.

Earlier this year, he and eight classmates celebrated the 60th anniversary of their ordination to the priesthood. All were ordained on June 3, 1949.

Survivors include two sisters, Dorette "Babe" Zilliox and Carol Gruber.

The Most Rev. Edward M. Grosz, auxiliary bishop of Buffalo, will preside over a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a. m. Wednesday in St. Bernadette Church, 5930 S. Abbott Road, Orchard Park.

Father Nugent will lie in state from 2 to 4 p. m. and 7 to 9 p. m. Monday and Tuesday in St. Bernadette's. At 8:30 p. m. Tuesday, there will be a Solemn Vigil Service with the prayers for the Office of the Dead.

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