

July 7, 1993

Father Lawrence Traffas, CSsR



Father Traffas was born Feb. 24, 1916, in Sharon. He attended St. Boniface Grade School and the public high school in Sharon. On leaving home to study for the priesthood, he enrolled in St. Joseph's Minor Seminary, the Redemptorist college at Kirkwood, Mo. From there he entered the novitiate at Mt. St. Clement's College at De Soto, Mo. His profession took place on Aug. 2, 1942.

He completed his studies at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Oconomowoc, Wisc. Father Traffas was ordained to the priesthood on Jan. 6, 1948, by the Most Rev. Moses Elias Kiley, archbishop of Milwaukee, at Oconomowoc. He celebrated his first solemn Mass at St. Boniface Church in Sharon on Jan. 13.

Father Traffas ministered in the areas of vocations and formation at St. Joseph's College, Kirkwood, Mo.; St. Gerard Mission House/Villa Majella in Pine City, Minn., and Mt. St. Clement's College in De Soto, Mo. He also served as rector at the college from 1961-1967.

He also ministered in the mission field as an itinerant preacher for more than eight years while based at St. Gerard Majella Parish in Kirkwood, Mt. St. Clement's in De Soto, and St. Joseph's, Wichita. He worked five years in the circulation department for Liguorian Magazine in Liguori, Mo.

Father Traffas served as a parish priest at St. Alphonsus, St. Louis; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Kansas City, Mo., and St. Joseph's, Wichita. He died July 7, 1993, at the age of 77. Bishop Gerber celebrated his funeral in St. Joseph Church in Wichita. Burial was in Liguori Cemetery, Liguori, Mo.