

Father John McGeever, Formerly of St. Agnes Cathedral, Dies Suddenly



REV. JOHN MCGEEVER

The Rev. John McGeever, 58, died suddenly on November 21, from a heart attack.

A priest for 25 years, Father McGeever was pastor of St. Joachim's Church in Cedarhurst at the time of his demise. During the seven years he was an associate pastor of St. Agnes Cathedral, he chaired the committee for the 1982 renovation of the cathedral and co-ordinated the project.

According to its officers, the Rev. McGeever helped found the St. Agnes Cathedral Gaelic Society ten years ago, was instrumental in writing the by-laws of the organization and in securing a charter from the church council through Msgr. Edward Melton. "His quiet Irish wit and love of things that were Irish

will always be remembered by those who knew him," said a Gaelic Society spokesperson.

Father McGeever grew up in the Bronx, attended Canisius College in Buffalo and spent some years as a member of the Brothers of Mercy before beginning his study for the diocesan priesthood at St. Bernard's Seminary and at St. John Vianney Seminary. He was ordained in 1968. Over the years, the Rev. McGeever had served as associate pastor at St. Patrick's, Huntington, Holy Spirit Church in New Hyde Park, and spent a year as associate pastor of Corpus Christi Church in Mineola before being appointed pastor of St. Joachim's. He was named dean of the Five Towns Deanery in 1992.

A former classmate, Father Gallagher told the Long Island Catholic that Father McGeever was 'tickled pink about being a priest' and on the occasion of his silver jubilee he remarked, "The priesthood is not the easiest job, but the most wonderful."

A Mass of Transferral was offered on November 23. Bishop Alfred Markiewicz was the principal celebrant, and Msgr. James Lisante, preached the homily. Bishop John McGann was the main celebrant of the funeral Mass at St. Joachim's, and Father Thomas Gallagher, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, North Merrick was homilist.

Interment was at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Hawthorne.

Father McGeever is survived by his sister, Florence Fay and her family.