

Monsignor Cosmo G. Saporito

A Mass of Christian Burial for Msgr. Cosmo G. Saporito, former pastor of St. Bernadette parish, Dyker Heights, was celebrated March 18 at the church. He died March 11 at his home in Florida. He was 86.

Born in Brooklyn, he attended St. John's University, and Our Lady of Angels Seminary, Niagara. He was ordained May 29, 1954.

He served as an assistant at Our Lady of Fatima, Manorhaven, L.I., 1954-67, and St. Fortunata, Brooklyn, 1967-71. He also taught for a few years at Cathedral Prep, Brooklyn.



In 1971, he was appointed as supervisory principal of Mater Christi H.S., Astoria, a position he held until 1976 when he was named pastor of St. Bernadette. He was named a monsignor in 1986 and he retired in 1996.

Since 2001, he has been living in retirement in Florida, where he assisted at St. Bernadette's parish, Port St. Lucie. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus for more than 60 years.

During World War II, he served in the U.S. Navy and was stationed in the Solomon Islands.

Auxiliary Bishop Octavio Cisneros was the main celebrant of the funeral Mass. Special concelebrants included Msgrs. Paul Sanchez, John Casey Thomas G. Caserta, John Keppler and Fathers Joseph T. Holcomb, Edward J. Kiernan, Eugene Coyle, and Son Linh Hoang. Father Victor A. Ulto, a former Brooklyn priest who serves as pastor of St. Bernadette's, Port St. Lucie, preached the homily.

Msgr. Caserta, current pastor of St. Bernadette, Dyker Heights, recalled being a student at Cathedral when Msgr. Saporito was on faculty there. "He was a very talented man musically. He was very good to the guys in the school. He was like everyone's grandfather. He was a very kind, good priest."

"He kept an active concern for people even after he retired to Florida," he added. "He was very close to his nieces and nephews."

Survivors include his sister Fannie Sciolto of Fort Myers, Fla. Burial was in St. John's Cemetery, Middle Village.