

Father Matthew Sheridan

A Mass of Christian Burial for Father Matthew Sheridan, former pastor of Queen of Angels, Sunnyside, was celebrated at the church March 11. He died March 7 at SS. Joachim and Anne Nursing Home, Coney Island. He was 83.

Born in South Ozone Park, he attended St. John's College, Brooklyn, and Our Lady of Angels Seminary, Niagara. He was ordained May 29, 1954 by Archbishop Thomas E. Molloy at St. James Pro-Cathedral, Brooklyn.



He served as an assistant at St. Camillus, Rockaway Beach, 1954-56; Immaculate Heart of Mary, Kensington, 1956-60; and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, S. Ozone Park, 1960-66. In 1966, he was appointed as spiritual director at Mater Christi H.S., Astoria. He served there until 1970 when he was named spiritual director at Bishop Kearney H.S., Bensonhurst.

He served as an assistant at St. Teresa of Avila, S. Ozone Park, 1975-77, and in 1977 he became pastor at St. Paul the Apostle, Corona. He served as pastor at Queen of Angels, Sunnyside, from 1981 until 1986.

He was an assistant at Immaculate Heart of Mary before retiring to Bishop Mugavero Residence, Douglaston.

Auxiliary Bishop Octavio Cisneros was the main celebrant of the funeral Mass. Special concelebrants included Msgr. John Casey, who preached the homily, and Father Eugene Coyle.

“He was a gentleman, a gentle, quiet, reserved priest,” said Msgr. Casey. “The priesthood was the direction of his life always. “He loved the songs of the '40s and '50s. He like the song ‘My Time Is Your Time’ and that is how he lived his life. He gave generously to the parish and to his students in Mater Christi and Bishop Kearney.

“He gathered people at the altar. He was a true pastor and good shepherd. The last few years of his life were not easy. He did not have a tranquil journey to death, like Jesus himself.”

Immediate survivors include Father Sheridan's sister, MaryJoan Dunne. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery, Woodside.