

The Rev. Monsignor James Patrick Finucan

Monsignor James P. Finucan, at the age of 85 and a priest for 62 years, died Friday, June 12, 2009, at Saint Joseph Rehabilitation Center in La Crosse.

Monsignor Finucan was born on Oct. 1, 1923, in Eau Claire, Wis., to Edwin and Isabel (nee McDonald) Finucan. He attended Saint Patrick Elementary School and Saint Patrick High School, both in Eau Claire; Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa; and St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. He was ordained on March 22, at Saint Joseph Cathedral in La Crosse by the Most Rev. John P. Treacy.

Father Finucan's first assignment, on March 31, 1947, was as Secretary to Bishop John P. Treacy. On June 30, 1954, he was appointed Vice Chancellor of the Diocese. On Aug. 29, 1956, he was named Papal Chamberlain to His Holiness Pope Pius XII, with the title Monsignor, and was invested by the Most Rev. John P. Treacy on Dec. 2, 1956. Monsignor Finucan was appointed as Chancellor of the Diocese on April 6, 1960. On June 22, 1965, he was appointed as Pastor of Saint Joseph Parish at Stevens Point, Wis. He was then appointed Associate Pastor at Saint Anne Parish at Wausau, Wis., with Father Stephen Gross and Father Thomas Abraham on June 6, 1973.

On June 15, 1977, Monsignor Finucan was released from his pastoral assignments to undertake graduate studies at the Divine Word Centre in London, Ontario, Canada. In 1978 Monsignor Finucan was then assigned as Pastor at Saint Wenceslaus Parish at Eastman and also to be associated with the team ministry at Saint John Nepomucene Parish at Prairie du Chien. On Dec. 13, 1983, he was appointed as Pastor at Saint James the Greater Parish at Eau Claire where he served until 1985 when he was appointed as Pastor of Saint John the Baptist Parish at Cooks Valley. Monsignor Finucan retired on Aug. 10, 1988. He resided at Holy Cross Diocesan Center for many years before moving to Saint Joseph Rehabilitation Center in La Crosse.

Monsignor Finucan is survived by his brother, Father J. Thomas Finucan; and two sisters, Mary (Kirby) Hendee and Peg (Bob) Fennig.

Monsignor Finucan was preceded in death by his parents.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 16, at Christ the King Chapel in La Crosse. Father Joseph Hirsch was the main celebrant. Burial will be at 11 a.m. today, June 17, at Saint Patrick Cemetery in Eau Claire.

The Diocese of La Crosse and the family were assisted by Blaschke & Schneider Funeral Home of La Crosse.