

also held an honorary doctor of divinity degree conferred by the Nashota Seminary in Wisconsin.

He was ordained a deacon in Calvary Episcopal Church, New York, in 1893, and was advanced to the priesthood in 1896 in St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Jersey City. Shortly after that he became a curate in Williambridge, N. Y.

In 1895 Father Mitcham was appointed priest in charge of Christ Episcopal Church, Stahope, and on September 1, 1896, he was given the added charge of St. James' at Hackettstown. He continued as vicar of both parishes for the next 31 years. He then served as honorary assistant rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in Orange until he retired on September 30, 1937.

Restored Church Here

St. James' church, founded in 1859, had been forced to close in 1887, when the edifice at the corner of Washington and Moore Sts. was sold and became a theatre under the name of Vernon Hall. For eight years there were no services, but in 1895 the Rev. W. H. Picksley of Dover resumed worship in what is now the Parish Hall on Moore Street. Father Mitcham also conducted services in that building during his first years here as resident priest, but he succeeded in re-purchasing the church structure, which was reconsecrated for worship by Bishop Starkey on May 30, 1900.

Two years later Father Mitcham planned and built the present vicarage on Washington Street next to the church, and in 1908 he added the carillon bells which still are played from the church tower. He also established a small endowment fund during his long tenure here.

He served as Red Cross chairman for the community during World War I, and earlier than that he was of service during the smallpox epidemic of 1904.

Served State Group

During his time on the Hackettstown Board of Education Father Mitcham became treasurer of the State Federation of District Boards of Education in 1921, and he continued in that post for some 25 years.

Active in Masonry, he had a term as master of Independence Lodge No. 76, F. & A. M., of Hackettstown, and he was honored four times by appointment as chaplain of the Grand Lodge of New Jersey. He also formerly served as secretary general of the confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament, an office he held for 20 years.

His wife was the late Mary Helen Stokes Mitcham. Surviving are three daughters, Miss Helen Mitcham at the home address; Mrs. Gertrude A. Wiklund of Fanwood and Mrs. Margaret M. Downey of Fresno, Calif.; two sisters, Mrs. Hilda A. Foster of Portland, Me., and Mrs. Edith G. Schuehle of New York City; three grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Fr. Mitcham Dies In His 88th Year

Restored St. James' Here And Served Many Years On Education Board

Solemn High Requiem Mass was offered Monday morning at All Saints Episcopal Church, East Orange, for the Rev. William Malyon Mitcham, 87, retired senior priest of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, who served 31 years as vicar of St. James' Episcopal Church in Hackettstown.

During his long residence here Father Mitcham also served 15 years on the board of education, 12 of which he acted as clerk. He died last Thursday, February 14, 1957, at his home, 76 Melmore Gardens, East Orange, after a long illness. His body laid in state at All Saints Church from Saturday afternoon until the mass on Monday morning. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery, Hillside.

Celebrant of the mass was the Rev. William R. Wetherell, rector of All Saints, with two retired clergymen assisting, the Rev. Edwin Ford, formerly of Sparta, as deacon, and the Rev. Marshall Wilson, formerly of St. James', as sub-deacon. Bishop Benjamin M. Washburn read the burial office. Among the choir of clergy was the Rev. Clarence W. Sickles, present vicar of St. James'.

Native Of London

Father Mitcham was born in London on May 19, 1869, coming to the United States when he was 15. He resided in New York City and in Hackettstown before moving to the Oranges in 1927. He was a graduate of St. Stephen's College, now Bard College, at Annandale-on-Hudson, N. Y., and General Theological Seminary in New York. He

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Obituary:

Fr. Mitcham

Date of Death:

Feb. 14, 1957