

OBITUARY

Rev. William Henry Oram

We are called upon to chronicle the death of Father Oram, who has been pastor of St. Mary's Catholic church of this place, for many years. Father Oram was the son of Presbyterian parents. His early life was spent in the city of Brooklyn. When a young boy he fell from a house (horse), which resulted in white swelling, causing his lameness. At the early age of nine years, he expressed a great desire to enter the Catholic Church. He was so very zealous in the faith that he undertook the difficulties which attended such a course, sacrificing all to assume the vows of the Catholic Church. He expressed a great desire to enter the priesthood. The orders of the Catholic Church are very strict in regard to anyone who is deformed entering the priesthood, and to overcome this difficulty, the pope, on account of his great zeal, granted a dispensation, and he was admitted to the order. He received his education for the priesthood in Canada and the West.

In 1867 he was ordained a priest, and served in the Diocese of Vincennes, Indiana. A short time after his ordination he was taken charge of by the late Bishop Bailey, and has been in the New Jersey Diocese ever since.

About fifteen years ago he took charge of St. Mary's Church here; at that time Stanhope being a part of this parish. It was his custom to hold services in both places each Sunday. Father Oram built a church in Stanhope, and had charge of this church until about three years ago when the parish was divided. In January, 1888, he had a stroke of paralysis, and went to Canada for treatment. Early last Fall he had sufficiently recovered to return to his much beloved parishioners here. In March he had a severe attack of bronchitis, and went to St. Vincent Hospital, New York, for treatment where he died Monday, April 15th, at 9:30 p. m., aged 54 years.

The body was expected to arrive here Wednesday morning, but did not until afternoon, when it was taken on to Washington for burial. Funeral services were held in the church here at 11 a. m., Wednesday morning, three priests being present: Father Brady, of Stanhope, Father Lawrence, of Washington, and Father Donovan, of Junction. Father Brady preached the funeral sermon, from the text "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord," Rev. XIII, 14. High Mass of Requiem was sung by the priests. The body came on the 2:46 p. m. train, and was joined by a number of friends from here, who went to Washington. There services were held, Father Brady preached again and the last rites of the church were administered.

The following persons acted as pall-bearers: Thomas Ledwith, James C. Martin, John Cummings, Patrick Larkins, Michael Timmons, Michael Pendegast. The interment was made in St. Joseph's Cemetery. Father Brady pronounced the final absolution, and with Fathers Lawrence and Donovan, chanted the usual service before the closing of the grave.

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R. Lemasters