

Deacon Joseph R. Burda, Sr.

Deacon Joseph R. Burda Sr., 73, of 129 N. Second St., Frackville, died unexpectedly Monday morning at Good Samaritan Regional Medical Center, Pottsville.

Born Sept. 27, 1933, in Halfway House (Gilberton), he was a son of the late Aloysius T. and Nellie Chiglinsky Burda.

He was a graduate of West Mahanoy Township High School class of 1952.

Deacon Burda was ordained a deacon on May 20, 1995, in the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Siena by Bishop Thomas J. Welsh.

Upon ordination, he was assigned to St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Frackville.

He graduated from St. Mary Immaculate Seminary, Cherryville, Allentown. He was a pastoral assistant at Providence Place Retirement Center, Pottsville, for seven years and Hamburg Center for the past year. His prayer and ministry were practiced at many functions throughout Schuylkill County and he was a member of the Social Action Office of the Allentown Bishop's Advisory Board for four years.

He retired as the service manager for Pope Motor Co., Pottsville, where he worked for 45 years. He also worked for 25 years as a sales clerk in the lawn and garden center of Boscov's, Pottsville.

He was a member of St. Ann Roman Catholic Church, Frackville.

He was a third-degree member of the Rev. James A. Hogan Council 2580 Knights of Columbus for 50 years. He was the chaplain of Boy Scout Troop 789, Frackville. He was a former Boy Scout leader of Troop 89, Frackville, for 25 years, receiving the Silver Beaver Award and the St. George Award for Catholic adult scouters. He was a former lodge chief of the Order of the Arrow

and received vigil membership.

Deacon Burda is survived by his wife, Mary J. Johnson, to whom he was married 53 years; six sons, Joseph J., Frackville; Ronald, Allentown; Gerald, Hazleton; Gary, Berwick; Paul, Riner, Va., and Rodney, Moosic; two sisters, Dorothy Brenick, Allentown, and Margaret Wolfgang, Frackville; two brothers, John, Frackville, and Albert, Pittsburgh; 13 grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday in St. Ann Roman Catholic Church, Frackville, with Monsignor Edward S. Zemanik, celebrant, and the Rev. David W. Karns, concelebrant. Friends may call from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday at the church and from 9 a.m. until the time of Mass on Saturday. There will be a prayer vigil at 7 p.m. Friday with Monsignor Edward O'Connor as celebrant.

Interment will be in St. Joseph's parish cemetery, Englewood.

Donations can be mailed to Mrs. Mary Burda, 129 N. Second St., Frackville, PA 17931, and will be accepted at the funeral home. Albert L. Gricoski Funeral Home, Frackville, is in charge of arrangements.