

Father Zolondek, Former Curate Here, Is Dead

The Rev. John G. Zolondek, former assistant pastor of St. Joseph's Parish here, died last night in St. Joseph's Hospital, Reading, after having been stricken with an apparent heart attack at 9 p. m. while working in his office at Reading Central Catholic High School.

A resident priest at St. Mary's Church, Kutztown, he also served as music director at the Reading school, having served previously in that same capacity at Allentown Central Catholic High School.

A noted musician, Father Zolondek directed a number of outstanding musicals while here and his subsequent presentations at Allentown and Reading were also brilliant productions, reflecting his great talents in this field. His most recent musical at Reading attracted a number of local friends.

Ordained in June, 1938, in Philadelphia, after completing his studies at St. Charles Seminary, Overbrook, his first assignment was at the local church. It was while he was here that he aided in conducting the summer camping program at Germantown. He wrote and produced 12 religious, musical and dramatic productions, as well as several comedies and an original Passion Play.

It was through his initiative that the St. Joseph's Dramatic Club and St. Joseph's Glee Club were organized here. An orchestra was also organized here by Fr. Zolondek.

Father Zolondek left this community in June, 1943 and was assigned to Our Mother of Sorrows Church, Bridgeport, at that time. In later years he was stationed at St. Ann's Church, Emmaus and St. David's Church, Willow Grove, as well as St. Agnes' Church in Philadelphia.

He was director of music at Alentown Central Catholic High School from Jan. 7, 1944 until after World War II, having reorganized the musical units there.

A native of Reading, he was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Zolondek. He was graduated from St. Peter's Catholic High School, that city, and McCann's Business School, Allentown, before beginning his seminary studies.

Surviving are two brothers, George and Joseph, both of Reading; and five sisters, Anna, Elizabeth of 322 Carpenter Street, and Mrs. Mary Freed, all of Reading; Mrs. Sophie Curran, Wyomissing; and Mrs. Margie Lins, Philadelphia.

The funeral will take place Saturday at 11 a. m., with a solemn Pontifical requiem Mass in SS. Cyril and Methodius Church, 6th and Laurel Sts., Reading. The Divine Office will be chanted at 10:30 a. m.

Following the transferral service on Friday at 3:30 p. m., Father Zolondek's body will lie in state at the church until time of the funeral.