

# CHURCH LEADERS ATTEND FUNERAL OF PASTOR HERE

## Rev. Thomas Schaefers Laid To Rest in Abbey Cemetery

St. Benedict's Catholic church was filled to overflowing yesterday morning as solemn requiem high mass was said for the pastor, Father Thomas Schaefers, 53, who died Friday.

Among members of the clergy present for the rites were two monsignors, the Rt. Rev. Frederic Ketter of Evansville, and the Rt. Rev. John Becker of Vincennes, and Rev. Henry Hermann, secretary to Bishop Joseph Ritter of the Indianapolis diocese.

Of the 120 priests, about 50 were from Indianapolis and points in southern Indiana, Kentucky and Illinois. Fifteen Benedictine brothers attended from St. Meinrad. Visiting laymen included Elmer Steffen, Indianapolis, diocesan director of music, and C. J. Zimmerman and R. F. Smith, Highland, Ill.

### Brother Participates

Bishop Ritter was prevented from attending by an ordination service at St. Meinrad. He presided at continued services for Father Thomas yesterday afternoon at St. Meinrad Abbey.

The office of the dead was recited by priests of the parish at 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning. Father William Schaefers, Wichita, Kansas, brother of the late Father Thomas, was the celebrant for the mass. Rev. J. G. Hermann, Wichita, served as deacon, and Father Aemilian Elpers, O.S.B., St. Meinrad, a classmate of Father Thomas, was the sub-deacon. Father Bernadine Shine was master of ceremonies.

Abbot Ignatius Esser of St. Meinrad preached the sermon and gave absolution. Father Rudolph Seibling directed the St. Meinrad monastic schola in the proper of the requiem and Sister Mary John directed the St. Benedict boys' choir in the ordinary of the mass.

### Abbot Pays Tribute

Fifteen sons of the parish in ministerial training at St. Meinrad, formed a semi-circle about the high altar. Mrs. Anna Schaefers, mother of Father Thomas, was present for the rites.

Abbot Esser in his sermon paid tribute to Father Thomas as a man of great versatility. He reviewed his success as choir director at St. Meinrad, and as professor and campus director there.

As to his pastorate here the speaker said, "His was the special gift of attracting the love of children, for children are sensitive to goodness and fatherhood in a man. My sympathy goes out to the little ones who have lost in their pastor a father and a friend."