

## Billings Monsignor Andrew Zarek dies

BILLINGS (AP) — Monsignor Andrew J. Zarek, a widely known Catholic clergyman and founder of two Billings parishes, died Friday of congestive heart failure.

He was 79.

He died at St. John's Lutheran Home, where he had lived the past several years.

Rosary will be Sunday evening at St. Patrick's.

Funeral Mass is scheduled for Monday morning, also at St. Patrick's.

Bishop Anthony M. Milone and priests of the Catholic Diocese of Great Falls-Billings will be concelebrants of the Mass.

Zarek's body will be sent to Chicago for burial.

Born in Chicago, Zarek was sent to Billings in 1951 to found Holy Rosary Parish, where he built a church, school, and convent.

The buildings were completed in 1952. Tragedy struck two days after Thanksgiving in 1955 when the church was destroyed by fire. Zarek rebuilt the church and continued serving at Holy Rosary until 1959 when he was assigned to found St. Pius X Parish.

He was pastor of St. Pius X until 1968 when he was assigned to St. Patrick's.

Zarek served as rector of St. Patrick's Co-Cathedral in downtown Billings from 1968 to 1982, when he retired.

He was ordained to the priesthood on May 21, 1936, by Bishop Edwin V. O'Hara of Great Falls.

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