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MSGR. CHARLES B. WOODRICH, AIDED THE POOR

By Staff
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A Mass of Christian Burial for Monsignor Charles B. Woodrich, a Buffalo native who championed the poor of this Rocky Mountain city, where he established a homeless shelter, was offered today. Burial was in Denver.

Father Woody, as he was popularly known, died Sunday (Nov. 10, 1991) at age 68 after suffering an asthma attack in the rectory of Holy Ghost Catholic Church, where he was pastor.

A Denver priest for 38 years, he founded the Samaritan House shelter and drew attention in the 1960s when he persuaded then President Lyndon B. Johnson to fund school lunches for the poor.

"He lived what he believed to the day he died," a colleague said.

"He'd help without hesitation," said an elderly homeless man who had received cash from the priest on several occasions.

Father Woodrich once wrote that the poor share the same dreams "for their families and themselves" as others who are more fortunate. What they lack, he said, is hope.

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He was a traditionalist who brought Latin back to the Mass in his church but also "enjoyed a good toddy and didn't always mind his manners," a parishioner said.

After graduating from Technical High School in Buffalo in 1941, he joined Curtiss-Wright Aircraft Co. as a service representative, testing warplanes before they were delivered to the Army Air Forces in World War II. He later worked in advertising sales in Buffalo and New York City.

He entered St. Bonaventure Seminary in Olean but, due to a chronic asthma, transferred to a Denver seminary, where he finished his training for the priesthood. He was ordained in 1953.

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