

Msgr. T. R. Pypers, 78, Veteran Priest, Dies

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The Rt. Rev. Theophilus Pypers, prothonotary apostolic, oldest priest in the diocese of Spokane in point of service, died yesterday in Sacred Heart hospital at the age of 78.

He also was the only priest in the diocese who had served in three dioceses without moving, Nisqually, Seattle and Spokane.

Msgr. Pypers was born in Belgium, and ordained July 14, 1901, at Louvain, Belgium, for the diocese of Nisqually which later became the diocese of Seattle.

Held Varied Posts

Msgr. Pypers' first assignment was for St. Mary's of Seattle, from October 31, 1901 to December 18, 1901. He was in charge of pastoral care of missions at Cheney, Davenport, Waterville and Wilbur, Wash., from December 18, 1901, to September 23, 1906.

He then was appointed pastor of St. Ann's, Spokane, a post he held until his death. He was defender of the bond for the matrimonial court of the diocese from 1920 to 1939; diocesan consultor from 1918 and vicar general of the diocese from 1939 to September 25, 1955.

He received his appointment as a domestic prelate with the title of monsignor in 1941. His prothonotary appointment was conferred last year by Pope Pius XII. This made him the only parson in the diocese, excepting the bishop, qualified to celebrate pontifical mass.

Msgr. Pypers had been in semiretirement for three years.

Bishop Bernard J. Topel was out of the city last night and could not be reached for comment. He



MSGR. THEOPHILUS PYPERS

once said of Msgr. Pypers: "His fidelity in fulfilling assignments and his zeal in fostering vocations to the priesthood and in directing those fitted for the religious life brought about more vocations for the secular priesthood from his parish than from any other parish in the diocese. In fact, one third of the diocesan clergy native to the diocese of Spokane are from his parish."

The body is at Hennessey's funeral home.

CHIEF OF STATE OF HAITI RESIGNS

PORT AU PRINCE, Haiti, April