



Rev. Francis J. McNelis

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Rev. Francis McNelis

Reverend Francis J. McNelis, 67, a resident of Holy Family Villa, Bethlehem, died March 24, 2005 in the VNA Hospice at St. Lukes, Fountain Hill. A native of Lansford, he was the son of the late J. Edwin and Elizabeth (Klein) McNelis. He attended St. Anns Elementary School, Lansford, and Lansford High School.

Father McNelis studied for the priesthood at Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, and was ordained to the priesthood on May 22, 1965 by the Most Reverend Joseph McShea. Father McNelis served as an assistant pastor in the following parishes, Annunciation B.V.M., Shenandoah; St. Joseph, Girardsville; St. Jeromes, Tamaqua; St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, Hellertown; St. John the Baptist, Shillington; St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Easton, and St. Ann, Emmaus. He served an administrator of St. Mary and St. Boniface, St. Clair and was later named pastor of St. Mary, St. Clair. He also served as pastor of St. Marys, Hamburg. During the course of his priestly ministry, Father McNelis had the following auxiliary diocesan assignments, regional director of the C.Y.O., East Schuylkill County and Northampton County and regional director of the Thanksgiving Clothing Drive, Northampton County. **Survivors:** Sister, Mary Catherine Henry and her husband, Richard, of Southport, S.C.; niece, Karen of Plymouth Meeting; nephew, Daniel and his wife, Kerry, of Dallas, Texas; great-niece, great-nephew. He was preceded in death by a brother, Edwin. **Services:** private, at the convenience of the family. **Contributions:** In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Holy Family Villa, Bethlehem.

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