

## MGR. B. J. QUINN, 52; BROOKLYN PRIEST

**Rector of St. Peter Claver, the  
Only Catholic Church for  
Negroes in Borough, Dies**

**GASSED IN THE WORLD WAR**

**He Established Novenas to St.  
Therese—Founded Home  
for Colored Children**

The Rt. Rev. Mgr. Bernard J. Quinn, rector of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Peter Claver, Jefferson Avenue and Claver Place, Brooklyn, died early yesterday afternoon at St. Mary's Hospital, Brooklyn, where he recently underwent an abdominal operation. He was 52 years old.

Mgr. Quinn, for whose recovery prayers were said at morning masses throughout the Brooklyn diocese yesterday, was rector of the only Roman Catholic church serving the spiritual needs of Negroes in the Brooklyn Diocese. He also was the first priest in the New York area to establish novenas in honor of St. Therese of the Little Flower. These were attended by thousands who traveled from many Eastern States.

Born in Newark, N. J., Mgr. Quinn was educated at St. Patrick's Parochial School in that city. He then attended St. Charles College at Baltimore, Md., St. Peter's College in New York, and the Seminary of St. John's College in Brooklyn. He was ordained a priest in June, 1912.

### Served on Long Island

His first assignment was at St. Brigid's Church, Westbury, L. I. He was then assigned to Corpus Christi Church, Mineola, L. I., and St. Gregory's Church, Brooklyn. He was pastor of the latter when the United States entered the World War. He went overseas as chaplain of the 333d Machine Gun Infantry Regiment.

Upon his return from France, where he was gassed and where he first became interested in the career of St. Therese, whose birthplace he visited while on leave from his regiment, he was assigned to the Holy Innocent Parish in Brooklyn. Later he went to the Church of Our Lady of Mercy in the downtown section of Brooklyn, and it was there that he became interested in the Negroes of that borough.

In 1923 he was made a monsignor and assigned to the rectorship of the Church of St. Peter Claver. In 1934 he established the first Roman Catholic orphanage for Negro children in the region, the Home for Homeless Colored Children at Wading River, L. I.

### Built Church Institute

In 1931 he completed the building of the \$300,000 Institute of St. Peter Claver's Roman Catholic Church, comprising a parochial school, convent, clinic, and recreational school. It was dedicated by Bishop Thomas E. Molloy on Oct. 25, of that year. The year previously he had established the mission of St. Benedict the Moor for the Negroes of the Jamaica, L. I., area.

Mgr. Quinn was regarded as a champion of Negro rights. In 1929, after Mgr. John L. Belford had applauded the action of a Protestant Episcopal minister in urging Negroes to attend their own churches, he said:

"It seems to me that no church can exclude any one and still keep its Christian ideals. The Constitution guarantees the freedom of religion and this, plus the fact that church property is tax exempt, ought to mean that any one can go any place to worship."

Surviving Mgr. Quinn are a brother, Charles Quinn, and a sister, Miss Elizabeth Quinn, both of Mineola, L. I.



**MGR. BERNARD J. QUINN**  
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