

# REV. SCHAEFERS OF ST. BENEDICT'S TAKEN BY DEATH

## Pontifical Mass Set for Monday; Burial at St. Meinrad

The Rev. Thomas Schaefers, 53, Order of St. Benedict, pastor of St. Benedict's Catholic church, died suddenly shortly before 9 o'clock yesterday morning in St. Anthony's Catholic church. He had been pastor of the local church since Sept. 15, 1939.

Father Schaefers suffered a heart attack as he was preparing to assist in the funeral mass for Edward Coudret, retired St. Wendell merchant, in St. Anthony's church.

Dr. Charles J. Folz, coroner, said death was due to coronary thrombosis. Father Schaefers' death was unexpected as he had not been ill, friends said.

The body will be taken at 8:30 o'clock this morning from the Ziemer funeral home to St. Benedict's church for solemn requiem high mass at 9 o'clock for pupils of St. Benedict's parochial school. Afterward the body will be removed to St. Benedict's rectory to remain until 1 o'clock tomorrow afternoon, when it will be taken to the church to lie in state until time for services Monday.

### Bishop To Attend

The office of the dead will be recited by priests of the parish at 9:30 o'clock Monday morning in St. Benedict's church.

Pontifical requiem high mass will be sung at 10 o'clock with the Rt. Rev. Abbott Ignatius Esser, St. Meinrad abbey, in charge. Bishop Joseph Ritter of the Indianapolis diocese will attend.

Friends may attend continued services at 3 o'clock Monday afternoon in St. Meinrad abbey. Burial will be in the monastic cemetery at St. Meinrad.

Father Schaefers was born in Muenster, Westphalia, Germany, on February 20, 1889, and came to the United States when a child with his parents, who settled at Petersburg, Ill.

### Ordained in 1914

After several years' study for the priesthood at St. Meinrad, he was professed a monk in the Benedictine order on September 8, 1908. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 4, 1914, in St. Meinrad abbey.

In 1914 he was assigned to serve at St. Meinrad as a professor of English and religion and as choir director. In 1926 he was transferred to Marmion Military academy, Aurora, Ill., where he was professor of English and religion.

He returned to his former teaching duties at St. Meinrad in 1928. He was widely known for his choir work and musical ability.

Father Schaefers received his first pastoral assignment in 1939 when he came to St. Benedict's church to replace the Rev. Lambert Enslinger, who entered Gethsemane abbey as a Trappist monk.

Surviving are his mother, Mrs. Anna Schaefers, Evansville; a brother, the Rev. William Schaefers, St. Francis hospital chaplain, Wichita, Kans., and a niece, Miss Patricia Schaefers, Los Angeles, Cal.