

Rev. Douglas James Berndt, 75

CAPE ELIZABETH — The Rev. Douglas James Berndt, 75, of 183 Fowler Road died May 27, 2001, at Maine Medical Center.

He was born in Springfield, Mass., and raised in Fitchburg, Mass., a son of Fedor and Elsie Spitzer Berndt. He earned a bachelor's degree at Boston University and a master's degree in sacred theology at Berkeley Divinity School at Yale University.

He was ordained to the priesthood of the Episcopal Church in 1953, and during his 35-year active ministry served parishes in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Tennessee. He was rector of St. George's Church, Lee, Mass., and vicar of the Church of the Good Shepard, South Lee, Mass. He was also associate rector of St. George's Church, Nashville, Tenn., and rector of St. Paul's Church, Kingsport, Tenn., where he served for 25 years.

In addition to his parish ministry, he was always active at the diocesan level, serving for many years on the departments of mission and Christian education in Tennessee.

During World War II, the Rev. Berndt served first in the Air Force and then in the Army as a 2nd lieutenant in the Criminal Investigation Division.

For many years he was a master beekeeper and an accomplished micro mineralogist.

He was a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary and a Boston Red Sox fan.

Surviving are his wife of 52 years, Susan Galliher Berndt; three sons, Ned Berndt of Miami, Fla., Lawrence Berndt of Cornish, N.H., and Jonathan Berndt of Cape Elizabeth; a daughter, Sarah B. Thomas of Corpus Christi, Texas; a sister, Susan Angell of South Portland; and a brother, Fedor W. Berndt of Fitchburg, Mass.

A Requiem Eucharist will be celebrated at 9 a.m. Friday at Trinity Episcopal Church, Portland, with the Rev. David Holroyd, interim rector, officiating, assisted by the Rev. Gordon Hutchins. A memorial service will follow at 11 a.m. Friday at the church, conducted by the Rev. Charles Karsten and the Rev. Frank D. Baker. The family will greet friends in the fellowship hall following the service. Burial will be in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, South Portland. Arrangements are by the Hobbs Funeral Home, South Portland.