

CHS Board Member Father Kriss Dies at 51

The *Pittsburgh Catholic* eulogized him as "The ubiquitous Father Kriss." Father David J. Kriss gave generously of his time to many worthy causes — not least the Catholic Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania, which he served as a board member from 1986 until his untimely death this fall.



Father Kriss died suddenly in Emmitsburg, Md., on October 6, 2004. He had been visiting his alma mater, Mount Saint Mary's, to join with classmates in celebrating a Mass marking the twenty-fifth anniversary of their ordination. Father Kriss collapsed while preparing for Mass.

He had been pastor of Our Lady of the Valley Church in Donora for seven years. Father Kriss previously served as parochial vicar at St. Martin in Pittsburgh's West End, St. Pius X, North American Martyrs in Monroeville and St. Clare of Assisi in Clairton. He was Latin instructor at Providence Heights Alpha School in McCandless Township and chaplain at Serra Catholic High School.

He was recently appointed religious education director for the Washington County East Deanery.

Father Kriss was active with the Knights of Columbus and the Pittsburgh Fraternity of Polish Clergy. He served as the latter group's president since 1999.

In 1996, he received bi-ritual faculties from Rome to celebrate the liturgy according to the Byzantine Rite. He was Washington County delegate to the Clergy Council. Since 2000, he was also a member of the diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission.

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Synod Hall
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