

Father Walsh, Former Fruita Priest, Dies

The Daily Sentinel Apr 30, 1960

A former pastor of the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fruita the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph J. Walsh, died late Friday in Mercy Hospital at Durango. In ill health for several years, he had been stricken with a heart attack a week ago.

Father Walsh served the Fruita parish from June 17, 1939, to June 1, 1942. He served as a chaplain in the Fifth Army Division during World War II, in both France and Germany. He was awarded a Purple Heart for wounds received in Germany.

Following his return from the Army, Father Walsh was administrator of the Sacred Heart Church in Pueblo from 1946 to 1948, then director of Catholic Charities for the Pueblo Diocese. He was assigned to the chaplaincy of Mercy Hospital Aug. 1, 1957, and had recently been appointed director of hospitals for the diocese.

Father Walsh was a native of Chicago but came to Denver with his family as a child. He attended schools and college there, graduating from St. Thomas Seminary. He was ordained June 14, 1935, in Denver, then was assigned to the assistant pastorage of St. John's Church in Denver before coming to Fruita.

He was a brother of the late Father Norbert J. Walsh, of Colorado Springs, who died in 1952.

A requiem mass will be sung for Msgr. Walsh on Monday, at Durango. Burial will probably be beside his brother in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Denver.

He is survived by his father, Fred Walsh, of Denver, and a sister, Mrs. Generose Jones of Gary, Ind.