

OBITUARIES

THE REV. GEORGE LANE 1934-2023

Jesuit priest helped save historic West Side church

By Bob Goldsborough
For Chicago Tribune

The Rev. George A. Lane was a Jesuit priest who led Loyola Press for 25 years and was largely responsible for saving the Church of the Holy Family's building — Chicago's second-oldest church — from demolition in the early 1990s.

"In many ways, George was like the second founder (of Holy Family) after (the Rev.) Arnold Damen. He never gave up, and he always believed the church needed to be restored," said Chicago historian Ellen Skerrett, who worked alongside Lane as a research assistant and an editor on his 1981 book "Chicago Churches and Synagogues." "The church had been in the neighborhood since 1857 and it was cherished by people of so many different backgrounds."

Lane, 89, died of natural causes on Nov. 12 at the Colombiere Center, a health care facility for retired Jesuit priests in Clarkston, Michigan, said his brother Marty. Lane, who had moved from Chicago to Clarkston in 2015, had been battling dementia, his brother said.

Born in Evanston, Lane grew up in the North Side's Edgewater neighborhood and graduated from Loyola Academy. He then attended Loyola University Chicago for two years before beginning studies in Ohio in 1954 to become a Jesuit priest.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in literature from Xavier University in 1958 and a master's degree in English from Loyola University Chicago in 1961, Lane was ordained in 1967.

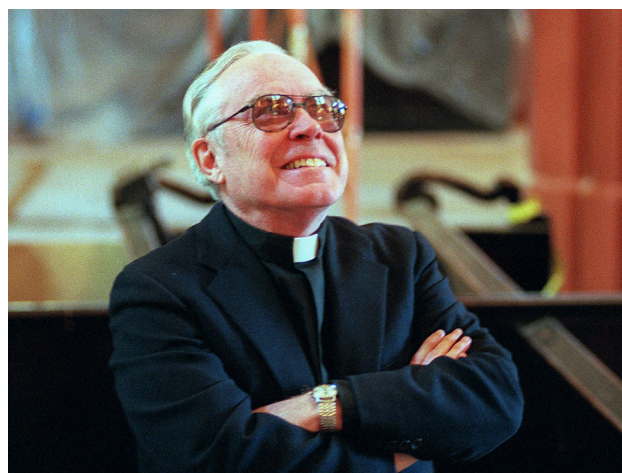
Lane earned a master's degree in theology from the Bellarmine School of Theology in North Aurora in 1968. The following year, he moved back to Chicago, where he began work as editorial director and associate director of the Jesuit-sponsored Loyola Press. In 1989, he was named the president and publisher of Loyola Press.

"He created a culture there that endures to this day. And he wasn't intimidated by hiring excellent laypeople, so he hired excellent laypeople who knew more about publishing than he did," said the Rev. Brian Paulson, a former roommate of Lane's who is president of the Jesuit Conference of Canada and the U.S.

Lane increased the imprint's staff from 30 to 100 employees, Skerrett said, and oversaw the publication of a very popular book by Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, "The Gift of Peace," which contained reflections from Bernardin about his impending death.

Lane wrote several books, including "Chicago Churches and Synagogues" and "Christian Spirituality: An Historical Sketch."

In the late 1980s, the future of the Victorian Gothic-style Holy Family, one



The Rev. George Lane admires the artistry on one of the newly restored statues at the Church of the Holy Family on March 12, 1998. **JOSE MORE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

of the city's few surviving buildings from before the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, appeared bleak.

Construction had begun on the Jesuit-owned church in 1857 and was completed in 1860, and for generations the parish served poor, working-class immigrants of all backgrounds, from the Irish and Italians to Germans, Hispanics and African Americans.

The church closed due to disrepair and a dwindling congregation in 1984. Several years later, Jesuit leaders decided to demolish the structure unless \$1 million could be quickly raised to undertake the first phase of a planned \$3 million renovation project, which would repair the church's leaking roof and crumbling internal plaster.

In 1988, leaders of the Chicago Province Society of Jesus, the church's owner, set a Dec. 31, 1990, deadline to raise \$1 million in cash. If the goal wasn't met, the church would face demolition. At that point, Lane, whose uncle, Jack, was an associate pastor at Holy Family, decided to get involved.

A founding member of the Holy Family Preservation Society and a resident of Holy Family's parish house, Lane became one of the public faces of the preservation effort, which included launching a nationwide fundraising campaign during the holidays in 1990, aimed at raising the remaining \$300,000 of the \$1 million needed in just two weeks. The campaign drew both local and national media attention.

On New Year's Day 1991, Lane stood in front of the church with a group of parishioners and announced that more than \$2 million in cash and pledges had been raised to save the Near West Side landmark.

"We not only made our \$1 million cash goal, we surpassed it," Lane announced. "We have \$1,011,000 in cash and another \$990,000 in good pledges."

A Tribune editorial in January 1991 called the fundraising effort the "Miracle of West Roosevelt Road."

"Those practical-minded naysayers ... hadn't counted on Rev. George Lane and

Oscar D'Angelo and Irene Miranda and Bill Lavicka and Ruby Welton and dozens of other brown, Black and white neighborhood folk who appealed to hundreds of former parishioners scattered throughout the area, who joined them in appealing to corporate and family foundations," the Tribune wrote.

Lane told the Tribune in 1991 that "we believe we will have the centerpiece of the Near West Side, and as we rebuild the church, we believe we will also rebuild our parish."

The following year, Lane told the Tribune that he had not stopped giving thanks for the church building's resurrection.

"Those who were saying two years ago that this couldn't be saved are now saying, 'Thanks be to God,'" he told the Tribune. "This would've been torn down and replaced with a cinderblock church that would seat about 200 people, about the size of a McDonald's."

After the renovations, the church resumed regular services in 1994. Architect Ward Miller, who is now Preservation Chicago's executive director, joined with colleagues including architect John Vinci to prepare drawings and otherwise help with the renovation effort.

"Holy Family would not be standing today without the efforts of Father George Lane and the efforts of all the people who came together," Miller said.

Paulson lauded Lane's vision both in leading Loyola Press and in taking charge and challenging authority in his willingness to preserve Holy Family.

"Father's Lane's holy disobedience paid off, and the world is a better place," Paulson said.

Lane retired from Loyola Press in 2014 and moved to Michigan the following year.

Lane also is survived by three other brothers, Michael, Joseph and Gregory; and a sister, Laura O'Brien.

A memorial Mass will take place at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday at the Church of the Holy Family, 1080 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago.

Bob Goldsborough is a freelance reporter.

Chicago Tribune Death Notices

Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

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Death Notices

Charone, Rose

Rose Charone, 97, beloved wife of the late Sheldon Charone; loving mother of Barbara Charone and Jan (Mark Sossin) Charone-Sossin; cherished grandmother of Judd Sossin and Brooke (Alex) Colletti. A memorial service will be held Friday, December 15, 3:00 PM at Weinstein & Piser funeral home, 111 Skokie Blvd, Wilmette. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Alzheimer's Association or a charity of your choice. Info: 847-256-5700.



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Coticello, Concetta

Concetta Coticello nee Giurdanella, age 84, died on Wednesday, December 13, 2023. She was born February 18, 1939 to Giorgio & Rosina Giurdanella in Nicosia, Sicily. Concetta worked for 18 years at the Nabisco factory where she made many friends. She is preceded in death by her parents Giorgio & Rosina Giurdanella, her mother in law Luigina Coticello, father in law Gaetano Coticello & her grandchild Angel Malgioglio. Concetta is the beloved wife of Salvatore Coticello. Loving mother of Luigina (Tom) Miller, Tom (Denise) Coticello, Rosina (Frank) Holas & John (Amy) Coticello. Cherished grandmother of Michael (April) Malgioglio, Anthony (Gina) Malgioglio, Anthony (Maria) Messere, Gina Messere, Salvatore Messere, Isabella Coticello, Giovanna Coticello, Salvatore Coticello & Alexis Rouse. Proud great grandmother of Mia Malgioglio, Lilliana Curiel, Milana Malgioglio, Massimo Malgioglio, Matteo Malgioglio, Marcus Curiel, Camilla Malgioglio, Giovanni Malgioglio, Milo Malgioglio & Noah Messere. Loving sister of Maria (Felice) Spiga, Lidia (the late Frank) Munizza, Lucio (Franca) Giurdanella & Nicolino (Ellen) Giurdanella. Cherished aunt & friend of many. Funeral Tuesday, December 19th 9:15 am from Thompson & Kuenster Funeral Home, 5570 W. 95th St. in Oak Lawn to St. Gerald Church for Mass at 10:00 am. Interment Resurrection Cemetery. Visitation Monday, December 18th from 3:00 pm until 8:00 pm. thompsonkuensterfuneralhome.com 708-425-0500

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Diamond, Thomas H.

Thomas H. Diamond 87. Beloved husband of Roberta J. (nee Damratowski) Diamond; loving father of Donna (Mark Kinzie) Diamond and Diane (Bill) Berry and was a cherished grandfather. Funeral information and condolences can be given at www.GlueckertFH.com or (847) 253-0168.



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Finn, Dr. Therese

Dr. Therese Finn, age 72; beloved wife of John Marszalek; dear daughter of James J. and the late Sally C. Finn; cherished sister of Mary Anne, Michael (Kathryn), Thomas Lt. Col. Rtd. USAF (Gail), Kevin (Lupita), Daniel (Marie), Stephen (Mary Patricia), Patricia, Nancy, the late Brian and James (Colleen) Finn; dearest sister-in-law of James and Mary Marszalek; loving aunt of many nieces and nephews. Visitation and Funeral, Saturday, December 16th, 9:00 AM Visitation until time of Funeral Mass 10:00 AM at St. Barnabas Church, 10134 South Longwood Drive, Chicago. Interment Private. Arrangements by Sullivan Funeral Home Hinsdale. 630-323-0275 or www.sullivanfuneralhomehinsdale.com



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Foch, Claudette Francis 'Claude'

Claudette F. Foch (nee Marotto) of Chicago passed away on December 10, 2023 surrounded by her loving family. A visitation will be held Sat. 12/16/2023 at 10 AM - 12 PM at Oehler Funeral Home 2099 Miner St., Des Plaines, IL 60016, funeral service at 12 PM, followed by a private burial. For further information please call 773-622-9300 or visit Oehlerfuneralhome.com

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Gliane, Leonor B.

Leonor B. Gliane, née Buñag, age 87, of Skokie, passed peacefully Sunday, December 10, 2023, in Lombard. Devoted daughter of the late Ambrosio and Maxima, née Uy, Buñag, she was born January 19, 1936, in Pitogo, Quezon, Philippines. Beloved wife of the late Vivencio; dear mother of Arlene (Anthony Sr.) Todd, Cedric (Eleanor Wong), Alquin (Michael Shoultz), and Ronald (Maria Cortez); loving grandmother of Antoinette, Anthony Jr., and Aja Todd and Payton, Trevor, Jared, and Michael Gliane; fond sibling of Homer, Eva, and Cicero and the late Ofelia, Filipino, Leonor (1st), Augusto, Estrella, and Dante. Visitation, Monday, December 18, 2023, from 3 to 8 p.m., at HABEN Funeral Home & Crematory, 8057 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Family and friends will meet for Mass of Christian Burial, Tuesday, December 19, at 10 a.m., at St. Lambert Church of St. Peter & Lambert Catholic Parish, 8148 Karlov Ave., Skokie. Interment, Maryhill Catholic Cemetery, Niles. Info: 847.673.6111 or habenfuneral.com to sign guestbook and to leave a condolence message.



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Hanrahan, James Michael

James Michael Hanrahan, 93, of Barrington, IL. Preceded in death by his late wife, Marilyn and is survived by his devoted wife Diane, loving father of Mary (John) Szajna, Michael (Margaret) Hanrahan, Patricia (Kevin) Lewis, Robert (Deborah) Hanrahan, Kathleen (Gregg) Grummel and Christopher Houk. Visitation Friday, December 22, 2023, from 9:00 am to 9:45 am at the Gathering Place at Transfiguration Church, 348 W. Mill St., Wauconda, IL 60084 (847-526-2400) followed by Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 am. Sign the guest book and see full obituary at: www.kisselburgwaucondafuneralhome.com.

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Kennedy, Cynthia A. 'Cindy'

Cynthia A. "Cindy" Kennedy, of Park Ridge, died peacefully at age 71. Beloved wife of the late Raymond, married in 1974, and daughter to Joseph and Magdalene Sebastian. Devoted mother to her surviving sons, Brian and Scott. Dear sister to the late Joe Jr. (Joan), Lynne (Tom Mikulina), Carol (Bruce Mackenzie), and Don (Kathy).



Fond Aunt to many nieces and nephews. She was an important member of the local community by volunteering with St. Paul of the Cross, Maine South High School, and Lion's Club; being a constant supporter of her two boys at school, sports, and home; and was a non-wavering caretaker to her late parents and husband's health challenges. Patience was never lacking in this beacon of love, hope, and generosity to all. Visitation Sunday, December 17th, 3-8pm, at **RYAN-PARKE Funeral Home**, 120 S. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge. Funeral Mass, 10 am Monday, at St. Paul of the Cross Church. Interment will be private. For online condolences, please visit: www.ryan-parke.com. Please omit flowers. In lieu of flowers, donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, www.stjude.org.

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Konieczka, Judith Ann "Judy"

Judith "Judy" Ann Konieczka passed away peacefully at home on December 7 surrounded by family. Judy was born in Chicago on March 4, 1943, to Vincent and Julia Farrell. Judy met her future husband, Ed, in high school and they got married on November 9, 1963. Ed and Judy built their home in Glenwood in 1969 and they moved into the house in 1970. Judy resided in her home until September of this year when she moved to her oldest son's home in Bismarck, North Dakota. Friends may visit with the family on Sunday, December 17, 2023 at Schroeder-Lauer Funeral Home, 3227 Ridge Road, Lansing, Illinois from 4:00 to 7:30 PM with a prayer service beginning at 7:00 PM. Funeral services for Judith will be held on Monday, December 18, 2023 beginning with closing prayers at 9:30 AM at the funeral home, then preceding to St. Ann Catholic Church, 3010 Ridge Road, Lansing for a 10:00 AM Mass of Christian Burial with Father Bill McFarlane officiating. Judith will be laid to rest at Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery, Calumet City, Illinois. Judy is survived by her children Ed (Melanie) Konieczka, John (Diane) Konieczka, Mary (Darren) Soucie and Kathleen Konieczka; grandchildren Liz (Colin) Harrn, Mike (Malorie Ishman) Soucie, Emma, Evan, Ella, Eliza, Adriana and Ethan Konieczka; and great-grandchildren Giavanna and Leo Harrn; her brother-in-law, Dennis Kranc, many nieces and nephews. Judy was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Ed; her oldest daughter, Alana; her two sisters Pat Kranc and Michele (Steve) Markowski and her parents, Vincent and Julia. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Judy's name to South Suburban Pads (<https://www.spsads.org/>), your local library or a charity of your choice. www.schroederlauer.com

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McGreal, Marion H.

Marion H. McGreal (nee Mulheran) age 99, passed away December 13, 2023. Loving wife of the late Roger. Daughter of the late Edward and Mary E. Mulheran. Devoted Mother of Mary Anne (Ron) Angone, Thomas Ret. CPD (Yvonne), Maureen Mayer, Bernadette Etten, Eileen (Edward Jr.) Barry, Patrick (Kelly) and Julieanne (Kevin Ret CFD) Krahn. Dear Grandmother of Bridget (Kevin) Patula, Michael (Rose) O'Toole, Jeanine O'Toole (Josh Johanpeter), Cara (Michael CPD), Roger (Laura) McGreal, Matthew (Jocelyn) Mayer, Martin (Mandy) Mayer, Danny (Gina) Mayer, Kevin (Nicole) Mayer, Elise (Jon) Mayer, Jenny Etten, Bridget Barry, Ashley Barry, Edward III (Meagan) Barry, Andrew (Avie) Archer, Chiara (fiance Chris) Archer, Katelynn (Kevin) Gill, Colleen Krahn, Kevin Jr. (fiance Kayli) Krahn. Cherished Great Grandmother of Emily, Molly, Caitlin, Bridget, Patrick, Sean, Olivia, Ceili, Ellie, Marley, Declan, Hunter, Jack, Emily, Danny, Sienna, Sophia, Leo and Anne Marie. Sister of the late Dolores Thompson, Betty Rohrer, Margie Garvey and Edward Mulheran. Visitation Sunday, December 17th, 3:00 to 8:00 p.m.; Funeral Monday, December 18th, 10:30 a.m. from Curley Funeral Home, 6116 W. 111th Street, Chicago Ridge to St. Linus Church, 10300 Lawler Ave, Oak Lawn, Mass 11:30 a.m.; Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Alsip. For Funeral info 708-422-2700, or www.curleyfuneralhome.com

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Nelson, Timothy

Timothy Nelson, 63, of Chicago passed away on December 11, 2023. Beloved husband of Julie, nee Begley. Loving father of Hailey (Vlad Bezuyevskiy) Nelson and Devin (Clark Sanford) Nelson. Adored PopPop of Gabriel and Amelia Bezuyevskiy. Cherished brother of Richard (Debi) and the late Kathleen. Loving son of the late Elizabeth. Dear uncle to many. He will be missed by many friends and family. Tim was a proud retired Chicago Firefighter/Paramedic and US Army veteran. A visitation will be held on Monday, December 18 from 3-8pm at **Smith-Corcoran Funeral Home**, 6150 N. Cicero Ave., Chicago IL 60646 with a service at 5pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Tim's name can be made to The 100 Club of Illinois, 875 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1351 Chicago, IL 60611. More info www.smithcorcoran.com or 773-736-3833.



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Chicago Daily Tribune

ON DEC. 15 ...

In 1791 the Bill of Rights went into effect following ratification by Virginia.

In 1832 Gustave Eiffel, the civil engineer renowned for the Paris tower that bears his name, was born in Dijon, France.

In 1890 Sioux Indian Chief



Lottery numbers

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Sitting Bull and 11 other tribe members were killed in Grand River, South Dakota, during a fracas with Indian police.

In 1916 the French defeated the Germans in the World War I Battle of Verdun.

In 1944 a single-engine plane carrying bandleader Glenn Miller disappeared over the English Channel while en route to Paris.

In 1966 movie producer Walt Disney died in Los Angeles; he was 65.

In 1989 a popular uprising began that resulted in the downfall of Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

In 2000 the long-troubled Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine was closed for good.

In 2004 Time Warner Inc. agreed to pay more than \$500 million to resolve

federal securities fraud and accounting investigations of its America Online unit.

In 2013 about 4,500 mourners attended the funeral of iconic South African leader Nelson Mandela, who was buried in Qunu, his rural home village in Eastern Cape province. Also in 2013 moderate socialist Michelle Bachelet, who served as president of Chile from 2006-2010, cruised to victory in a presidential runoff.

In 2015 Chicago firefighter Daniel Capuano, 42, died while fighting a fire at a 15th Street warehouse; the 19-year veteran was survived by his wife and three children. Also in 2016 Wheaton College students protested after officials at the evangelical Christian school placed a tenured professor on administrative leave after she donned a traditional headscarf to show solidarity with Muslims and posted on Facebook that "we worship the same God."