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To	LARRY LATERZA	From	KEVIN FEENEY		
Co./Dept		Co.	ARCHIVAL CENTER		
Phone #	323-881-2251	Phone #	818-345-1504		
Fax #	213-386-0895	Fax #	818-341-3276		

24 THE TIDINGS

\* R.I.P. NOV. 22, 1999

## OBITUARIES

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### Msgr. Kenneth R. O'Brien

■ Funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 26 at Our Lady of Mount Lebanon Cathedral, West Los Angeles, for Msgr. Kenneth R. O'Brien, veteran priest of the archdiocese and Maronite Rite chorobishop, who died Nov. 22 at St. John of God Retirement and Care Center, Los Angeles.

Msgr. O'Brien, 84, was a member of the first class of priests ordained from St. John's Seminary, Camarillo in 1940, and was the last Latin-rite pastor of St. Peter's Church before it was transferred in 1955 by Cardinal James Francis McIntyre to the Maronite Rite. It was later renamed Our Lady of Mount Lebanon-St. Peter Cathedral.

Born in Beverly, Mass., Kenneth O'Brien moved with his family to Los Angeles at age seven in 1922, where he attended St. Thomas and St. Brendan Schools and the Los Angeles Junior Seminary. He then attended St. Patrick's Seminary in Menlo Park before transferring to Los Angeles' new major seminary, St. John's, in 1939 and was ordained a priest May 18, 1940, by Archbishop John Cantwell.

He was an associate pastor at St. Brendan and St. Bernard, Los Angeles, then in 1946 was sent to Catholic University of America to study canon law. After earning his degrees, he returned to Los Angeles in 1949 and served on the archdiocesan Matrimonial Judicial Tribunal. He served more than 30 years in the chancery office, including tenures as vice chancellor and secretary of contracts and real estate, and in 1973 he was appointed a judge in the St. Maron



Msgr. Kenneth R. O'Brien

Diocesan Tribunal.

Concurrently, Msgr. O'Brien was a pastor at several archdiocesan parishes, including St. Ann, Los Angeles (1955-62); St. Mark, Venice (1966-67); and Divine Saviour, Los Angeles (1967-71) before retiring from parish work. In 1960 he was named a papal chamberlain (monsignor), and in 1975 he was elevated to prelate of honor.

Msgr. O'Brien was appointed a judge in the matrimonial tribunal of the Maronite Diocese of St. Maron, Brooklyn in 1973, and even into the 1990s, while in retirement, he participated in that tribunal. In 1978 he was ordained a chorobishop in the Antiochene Maronite Rite.

Because of ill health, he moved into St. John of God in 1994. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery, East Los Angeles.