

## Rev Edward John Curnow

The Rev Edward John Curnow, a Catholic priest well known for his involvement with Corso and the Catholic Youth Movement, died in Christchurch recently. He was 71.

Father Curnow was born in Greymouth on July 5, 1920 and educated at Hatters Terrace School (Nelson Creek), Marist Brothers' School in Greymouth, then in Christchurch at St Bede's College and Canterbury University College.

He studied for the priesthood at the Holy Cross College in Mosgiel and was ordained at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament in Christchurch in 1945.

Father Curnow's church appointments included serving in the Addington, Lincoln, New Brighton, Sumner, and Bishopdale parishes as well as being an assistant priest at the Cathedral and chaplain to St Joseph's

Juniorate and Mount Magdala.

A lay colleague, Mr Peter Brett, said Father Curnow's ministry had a wide influence within and beyond New Zealand.

For more than 40 years, as an ordained priest in the Christchurch diocese, he had been in the vanguard of the revolutionary changes that had affected the Catholic Church since the Second Vatican Council.

His lifetime commitment to the promotion of peace and social justice was reflected in his 10-year term as national director for the Catholic Commission for Justice, Peace and Development and as project adviser for Corso.

Mr Brett said the force of his personality and the freshness and conviction of his ideas sustained such organisations as the Young Christian Students, Young Christian Workers, and the

Christian Family Movement.

A deep concern for the needs of the poor and powerless found expression in his work with organisations such as Catholic Overseas Aid, the Catholic Commission for Justice, Peace and Development, Trade Aid, Medical Aid Abroad, and Catholic Overseas Volunteers.

Father Curnow was a founding member of both the Pacific Partnership and the Asia Partnership for Human Development and also the Asian Cultural Forum on Development.

He was an adviser to Government and private sector aid programmes but offered himself unstintingly to those who sought his skills and experience: the unemployed, single parents, street kids and Maori communities, Mr Brett said.

Father Curnow is survived by a brother, brother-in-law, and many nieces and nephews.