

REV. M. J. CURLEY, 72, OF REDEMPTORISTS

 [nytimes.com/1972/12/05/archives/rev-m-j-curley-72-of-redemptorists.html](https://www.nytimes.com/1972/12/05/archives/rev-m-j-curley-72-of-redemptorists.html)

SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES

December 5, 1972

December 5, 1972, Page 50 The New York Times Archives

The Rev. Michael J. Curley, historian of the Baltimore province of the Redemptorist order of the Roman Catholic Church, covering the Northeastern United States, died of brain cancer Sunday in Lutheran Hospital, Brooklyn. He was 72 years old and lived at the rectory of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn.

Father Curley entered the Redemptorist order in 1921 and was ordained in 1926. After four years of missionary work in Puerto Rico, he studied at Catholic University in Washington, earning a Ph.D. degree in 1935. His thesis was "Church and State in the Spanish Floridas."

Father Curley's duties in the next 14 years included preparation of a biography of the fourth Roman Catholic bishop of Philadelphia, John Neumann, who was subsequently beatified. In 1949, he became dean of men at the new Catholic University in Ponce, P. R., serving until malaria compelled his return in the mainland in 1953.

His published works included "The Provincial Story," "Cheerful Ascetic," a life of the Venerable Francis X. Seelos, and articles in encyclopedias and other publications.

Father Curley leaves a sister, Mrs. Thomas Loftus.