

TIMES REVIEW

Martyred missionary comes home

Funeral mourners gather Brother James laid to rest

By Patrick J. Whelan
Staff writer

OLONIA — Family, friends and neighbors filled Sacred Heart Church, 18, to bid farewell to Brother James Miller, FSC, who had been slain and killed instantly by unknown assailants in Guatemala the previous Friday.

Nearly 700 persons participated in the Mass of Resurrection celebrated by Bishop Frederick W. Kling, Auxiliary Bishop John Paul Cullen and 15 priests. Among them were Fr. John Knoll and Capuchin Fathers who served with Brother James in Guatemala and Guatemala.

Also present were Agnesian Sisters from Michigan, who had recently been expelled from Nicaragua.

Brother Paul Joslyn, FSC, who had accompanied the body of Brother James from Guatemala, was one of the pallbearers.

Brother James Miller made God's presence present to the people among whom he worked despite the dangers which he was aware," said Father Charles Hiebl of Plover, who presided at the homily.

At the end of Mass, Brother Cyril Calkins, FSC, superior of the Brothers' Winona Province, outlined the career of Brother James in Guatemala and Guatemala. He had worked for eight years in Nicaragua where he had designed, financed, built and equipped an industrial arts and vocational education school. He had been principal of a government school.

"I found satisfaction working among the very poor in Nicaragua," Brother Cyril said.

Brother James was killed in Huehuetenango in Guatemala,

See MISSIONARY, page 3



Photo by Patrick J. Whelan

Pall bearers, friends of slain Brother James Miller, FSC, carry his body into Sacred Heart Church, Polonia, for the Mass of Resurrection and a final farewell from family, relatives and friends before burial in the family plot in the cemetery of St. Martin in nearby Ellis. Brother James was killed by four masked gunmen on Feb. 13 at the Indian Center where he served in Huehuetenango, Guatemala. His fellow missionary, Brother Paul Joslyn, FSC, accompanied his body to St. Paul, MN, then to his home for funeral rites on Feb. 18. Bishops F.W. Freking and John Paul concelebrated the Mass in Polonia.

Last day was 'synthesis' of Brother's life

By Patrick J. Whelan
Staff writer

STEVENS POINT — Last Saturday was not a typical weekend day in the life of Brother James Miller, FSC, at the Indian Center of Colegio La Salle in Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

With no classes that day, Brother James usually spent the morning with the Indian students out on the farm, said Brother Paul Joslyn, FSC, who served with him at the center.

"Last Saturday was special because the next day, Feb. 14, was Dia de Carino, Day of Kindness or Valentine Day. Two groups of students were out on a picnic and Brother James was along with them," he explained.

"After they had returned in mid-afternoon, Brother James did some work at the Indian Center as he usually did on Saturday afternoons, because he was in charge of the buildings.

"At about 4:10 p.m., while he was removing a post attached to the wall near a window, he was shot down.

"Four masked men fired on him from a passing car, then sped off. They left him mortally wounded in the neck and chest. He died within moments."

Working at the Indian Center and teaching at Colegio La Salle had been two full time jobs for Brother James Miller, FSC, a native of nearby Custer.

"He and I were staff at the Indian Center, where we lived," said Brother Paul, who accompanied the body of Brother James here for a funeral Mass last Thursday in Sacred Heart Church, Polonia, and burial in the cemetery of St. Martin, Ellis.

"Five other brothers teach at Col-

See BROTHER'S, page 3