

# Our Retired Priests... What Are They Doing Now?

By JOHN DASH and ALEX MACDONALD

In the last frames of one of his movies, Paul Muni, who was playing the role of a great but recognized doctor retiring from practice, packed his satchel, bundled his greatcoat about his ears and trudged off into the gray twilight of a rainy alleyway.

Hollywood did that to retirement to give the ladies at the matinee a chance to stifle a sob.

But the retirement of a professional man is quite different. At least it is quite a bit different for the 40 priests of the Rochester Diocese who, in the last few years, have retired from their pastoral or academic posts.

Of those 40 priests, 19 are still aiding the Rochester Diocese in some priestly way. Eight of those 19 help out in their own former parishes as "pastors emeritus"; and 22 still live in a rectory or seminary atmosphere.

Asking the question "What does it mean to be a retired priest?", the Courier-Journal interviewed several of these priests who are entering their crowning years.

Invariably, the answer came back that life was much the same as before. Priestly activity was diminished only by demands of health. Frequently it was not diminished at all, but simply took on a new form of apostolic work.

Msgr. George W. Eckl, senior of all diocesan priests, is 82 years old, and retired as pastor of St. Andrew's parish in 1965. He describes his life at St. Andrew's as "very active."

The Courier-Journal interviewed him just as he returned from baptizing four babies.

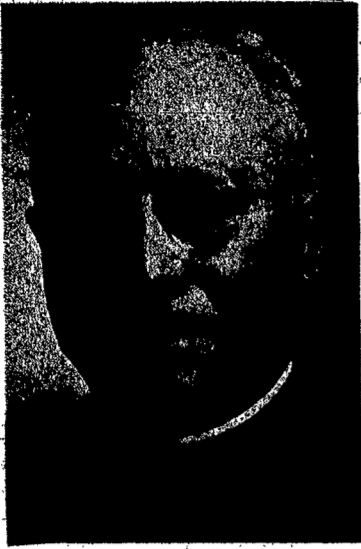
"I do all that the regular assistant does," Msgr. Eckl said. "I visit the sick in hospitals, and I care for about 25 Catholic patients at the Alamo Nursing Home on Carter St."

No athlete at 82, but "quite given to walking," he explained. "I steal a little time for it every day. For example, I will park as much as a quarter of a mile away from a hospital and walk that distance."

The most distinguished rectory of the diocese is, of course, Bishop James E. Kearney, 85 this past Tuesday, who stepped out of administrative

"Retirement is a trauma," one priest said, "Don't let anybody kid you about that. Some men look forward to it; but there's the feeling that you're not good enough anymore, when it comes."

"But," the priest also said, "If you sit back and feel sorry for yourself, well, that's when the trembles and the fumbles start. You've got to keep fighting."



MSGR. ECKL

responsibilities just three years ago after 29 years as the Bishop of the diocese.

He still lives in the same East Ave. residence he occupied all during his episcopacy.

When Bishop Sheen came as his successor in December, 1966, and had an apartment created for himself in the Pastoral Office building, he equipped about-Bishop-keener that he "couldn't possibly ask a man to move out of a home he had loved for so long."

Bishop Kearney presides frequently at funerals and parish affairs, preaches very often at devotions in honor of the Blessed Mother, and still delights in attending functions at the colleges and high schools of the diocese.

Spry of step and keen of mind, thanks, he says to daily exercise in his yard, the Bishop has not regretted that he yielded to the request of Pope Paul that all Bishops over 75 should submit resignations.

"I wondered then what I would do with myself in the years the good Lord might still give me to live. But I can say now that when the Lord takes away burdens He adjusts the back to carry the future."

Bishop Sheen startled the diocese and the whole nation when he unexpectedly announced on Oct. 15 that Pope Paul had accepted his resignation at the age of 74 and that he would be succeeded by Msgr. Joseph L. Hogan, pastor of St. Margaret

Mary's Church in November.

Refusing to reveal why he had elected to give up the diocese, the Bishop insisted: "I am not resigning my work. I am, preparing to regenerate it."

Bishop Sheen will leave Rochester the day of Bishop-designate Hogan's installation, Nov. 28, he has stated. He will live on East 77th Street in New York City. Cartons of books and personal belongings have already started to move from 50 Chestnut Street to his new apartment close to the East River in Manhattan.

"I intend to keep very busy," he said last week. "My engagement-book is already very crowded with promises to give lectures and special talks in the months ahead. I expect to give retreats and to write a great deal."

Holding back a laugh, Msgr. George J. Schmitt said of his retirement, "I think I'm doing pretty well. I get along

with everybody as well as I ever did." He lives at Holy Family rectory on Ames St., Rochester.

Besides his membership in the National Catholic Theater Conference, "I guess you could say I've been in dramatics all my life," Msgr. Schmitt lists his activities at the age of 81 (Tuesday, Oct. 21) as saying Mass, teaching

Msgr. Duffy

Msgr. Ball

the 8th grade religion class, making Communion calls, visiting the sick in hospitals, and keeping the general records of the parish.

Outside of this Msgr. Schmitt like "to walk around and meet people on the street. You can't meet the people driving in a car. I like to go up to them and ask 'Why didn't I see you in Church, Sunday?'"

Looking into Father Albert J. Geiger's activities, at the age of 73, we interviewed Father Edward E. Steinkirchner, pastor of Holy Ghost parish, who told us that Father Geiger was visiting his brothers in California, that last year he traveled to Hawaii, that he keeps involved in parish activities, that he remains "perennial president of Cathedral High School Alumni."

"He is in great demand as a toastmaster on the banquet circuit of Rochester, civic organizations," the young Coldwater pastor said. "I simply don't try to keep track of his coming and going from our rectory."

Msgr. John M. Ball, at 80, manages to play golf every day during the summer. "And of course I go down to Florida for a couple of months in the winter so that gives me time to play more golf or fish, or whatever I want."

Msgr. Ball describes his work in St. Rose of Lima parish, Lima, where he was pastor for 34 years, as "sort of half-assistant to Father Doyle, the pastor." His duties are saying Mass, hearing confessions preaching about once a month, and visiting parishioners.

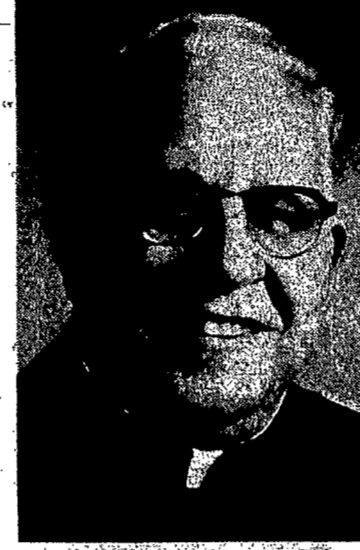
Msgr. Ball also takes pride in what he describes as the "finest Civil War library around." His own, built up over the years by a great interest in that time of American history.

Msgr. Leo V. Smith, who retired two years ago at the age of 77, is presently living at and serving the people of St. Ann's Home, Rochester. Before his retirement, Msgr. Smith, among other assignments, served as spiritual director at St. Bernard's Sem-

nary for 11 years and as pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, Rochester, for 21 years.

Prior to his leaving the pastorate of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Msgr. Smith explains, Sr. Marie Michelle, administrator of St. Ann's, approached him with the idea of taking up an apostolate to elderly people.

This apostolate has become his daily routine. He says, "I try to call on as many people as possible at St. Ann's. You know elderly people greatly welcome the company of someone other than the family and relatives."



FATHER GEIGER

Msgr. Smith is happy with the life at St. Ann's. He describes it as "exceedingly restful." He finds it joyful to be in the company of the 7 other priests living there; and he appreciates the opportunity to be of service to the elderly.

The eight priests who live at St. Ann's Home share a common life in that they have private rooms along one corridor, take their meals together and share a bright recreation room. They have easy access to altars for their daily Masses. Several of them go out each week and Sundays to assist in nearby parishes.

Living where there are other aged and infirm people has a special drawback, conversations with the St. Ann's priests revealed.

There is a tendency to reinforce one's own physical handicaps, it was hinted, because of continuing contact with the more elderly and entangled.

Msgr. John M. Duffy, 76 and retired for 2 years, is presently living at Our Mother of Sorrows parish, Rochester, New York 14606. Past: Office Building-Winter Island, Florida-33036. Prior to his retirement,

Msgr. Duffy served for 16 years as Diocesan Superintendent of Schools and Director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. Following that assignment, Msgr. Duffy was pastor of St. Augustine's parish for 23 years.

Msgr. Duffy, who calls his priestly activities "very satisfying" and does not find he needs to develop hobbies or outside interests, lists his activities as those of a regular assistant to the parish:

Mass, confessions, preaching and visiting the sick in the hospitals.

When asked if he thought there could be improvement in the diocesan facilities for its retired priests, Msgr. Duffy commented that a separate place, other than St. Ann's might be made available.

While he noted that the 8 priests presently living on the second floor of St. Ann's

were very happy with their arrangement, he also cited the program the St. Louis Archdiocese has.

According to Msgr. Duffy, retired priests are living in a 4-story apartment house in the heart of St. Louis. Such an arrangement, he says, would afford easy access to places of business and also bring the retired priests into contact with persons of all ages, as well as providing them with priestly companionship.

He made the observation President's Prayer Breakfasting the annual national Da-

## Retired Priests in the Diocese

The following is a list of the retired priests in the Diocese:

- Rev. Edward S. Eschrich, 20 Gates Drive, Williamson, New York 14589
- Rev. Howard W. Geck, 1500 Portland Avenue, Rochester, New York 14621 342-1700
- Rev. Albert J. Geiger, 220 Coldwater Road, Rochester, New York 14624 328-1120
- Rev. John A. Guy, St. Michael Church, Montezuma, New York 13117-315/734-5012
- Rev. William E. Hayes, 1310 West Church Street, Elmira, New York 14905 607/734-5012
- Msgr. Frank J. Hoefen, 1089 Joseph Avenue, Rochester, New York 14621 467-2725
- Rev. G. Stuart Hogan, 789 East Avenue, Rochester, New York 14607 473-3230
- Msgr. Robert A. Keleher, 3003 Dewey Avenue, Rochester, New York 14616 683-3230
- Rev. Walter J. Kohl, 410 Chili Avenue, Rochester, New York 14611 328-2442
- Rev. Stanislaus B. Krolak, 2260 Lake Avenue, Rochester, New York 14612 254-1433
- Rev. John V. Loughlin, 3675 N.E. 15th Avenue, Pompano Beach, Florida 33064
- Msgr. Edward J. McAniff, 4 Golf Avenue, Pittsford, New York 14534 586-9131
- Msgr. John F. Neary, 26 Empire Boulevard, Rochester, New York 14605 288-5000
- Rev. John P. O'Belrne, 97 West Bayard Street, Seneca Falls, New York 13148 315-568-5203
- Rev. William J. O'Brien, R.D. No. 4 Melrose Road, Auburn, New York 13021 315-252-7271
- Rev. J. Joseph O'Connell, 8163 Route 20A, Honeyey, New York 14471 138 La Canada Rd., Green Valley, Ariz. 85614
- Rev. Daniel B. O'Rourke, 1500 Portland Avenue, Rochester, New York 14621 342-1700
- Rev. Jacob R. Rauber, 800 Lake Road, Webster, New York 14580 671-4718
- Msgr. George J. Schmitt, 415 Ames Street, Rochester, New York 14611 328-3110
- Msgr. Leo G. Schwab, 325 Lake Street, Elmira, New York 14901 607-782-2433
- Msgr. Charles F. Shay, 1500 Portland Avenue, Rochester, New York 14621 342-1700
- Rev. Edward B. Simpson, 12 Chestnut Street, Phelps, New York 14532 315-549-4812
- Rev. Arthur C. Smith, 789 Plymouth Avenue South, Rochester, New York 14608 328-2509
- Msgr. Leo V. Smith, 1500 Portland Avenue, Rochester, New York 14621 342-1700
- Rev. Herbert L. Sturmer, South Main Street, Cohocton, New York 14826
- Rev. James T. Wood, 411 Canisteo Street, Hornell, New York 14843 607-524-3900
- Rev. Michael Wurzer, 1500 Portland Avenue, Rochester, New York 14621 342-1700

## Presidential Pr...

# Graham To Tu...

Washington, D.C.—(RNS)—list Billy Graham told a grocer and congressman her "sometimes has a feeling that they feel that there may be some, that perhaps we are problems that seemingly a ble."

He made the observat President's Prayer Breakfasting the annual national Da-

Some 80 senators and co gathered here with Presid in what is believed to be such prayer breakfast ev White House.

The President led his wea lar participants in the mee meetings at the Capitol — Quaker prayer for God's g directing the affairs of the

In his remarks before Mr. Graham, President Ni attention to an en-graving over the fireplace in the state dining room where the break-f was served.

It reads: "I pray heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this House and on all that shall hereinafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men under this roof."

This prayer was written first President to occupy House, John Adams, and into the marble over th when Franklin Roosevelt dent, Mr. Nixon said.

Mr. Graham said he bel are four periods in Amer when it seemed to some was no way out, but "w same route out of our pro- me," namely, turning to



Jerry Kosman, star of the 17 million cop ing modern language James Z. Nettinga

## Their

### Bob Hope A Missionary

Aurora, Ill — (RNS) — comedian Bob Hope, a dim-flyer and over 10,000 Catholic missionary in N will realize a 20-year-old

After two decades of t mountainous jungle trails Pacific mission diocese of the island of New Ireland, thony Gendusa, M.S.C., w airplane for emergency flights, literally cutting ordinary island-to-island

Last July Mrs. Jerrie M the Jerry Mock Air Show er of numerous awards for her contributions t along with Bob Hope, p-Fur-and Chicago radio Eddie Hubbard, responde from 10,000 friends of the Missionaries of the Sacre Aurora, Ill., some 20 mi Chicago.

The entertainers offerre ents to help raise funds fo

## Poles,

Detroit — (NC) — Re 300 persons got together and small talk at the Pol Club here. This convivial usual in that only half guests were Poles. The blacks.

The event, sponsored b Polish Conference of Deted a year-long effort to Negroes and Poles, repor the most mutually antago groups in the nation; ca smashing when they en-

But the conference h purpose, according to Fa Bogus, pastor of St. The who has been involved in since since its founding. I the day when the two combine their weight to out of chaos.

Polish churches are areas of the ghettos," F said. "These are people

## Celibacy Issue Raised at Rome Synod

Rome — A French Cardinal raised the subject of priestly celibacy for the first time in the Synod of Bishops. Bishops.

Francois Cardinal Marty, Archbishop of Paris, proposed "the problem of the commitment to chastity in celibacy" for study by a future synod.

The French prelate's proposal implicitly recognized what had become manifest in continued priestly agitation against celibacy — that the 1967 encyclical by Pope Paul VI reaffirming celibacy as the rule of the church had failed to close the issue.

In other developments as the synod neared its close, Cardinal Cooke, Archbishop of New York, proposed a world fund for human development supported by the entire church, and John Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, asked for the lifting of unnecessary secrecy in synod affairs and for speedier Vatican action on the synod's recommendations.

Cardinal Marty's speech proposing three items for future synodal consideration anticipated acceptance by the Pope of one of the major recommendations likely to be voted — the request that the bishops have the right to propose agenda items instead of debating matters offered by the Vatican.

The Second Vatican Council's decree on the priesthood, Cardinal Marty said, has created a desire for enriched concepts of the priestly life.

In referring to the celibacy issue and other "more profound" problems, the 65-year-old French prelate evoked manifestations of discontent in the priesthood. These include the many hundreds leaving annually for marriage, a general decline in vocations, agitation in France and elsewhere for priests to have the right to work in the world and exercise priestly functions on a "part-time" basis, and demands for a greater voice for both priests and laity in parish and diocesan affairs.

## Rome Synod as Seen By Cardinal Dearden

(Continued from Page 1)

pressed in the episcopal conference?

A. — Collegiality in the true sense refers only to the relationship of the bishops gathered in college with the Holy Father as the head of the college, in administering, directing and coordinating the life of the whole Church. It has a very precise meaning.

It is true that there is a kind of collegiality in the conferences of bishops when the bishops of a particular country are brought together in concern for that Church. But, in the strict sense, it is not the collegiality as we defined it in the Second Vatican Council. I prefer to call it "corresponsibility."

As for the local Church, what people call collegiality is a fact that is finding fuller expression in the Church today. Pastoral councils and parish councils in their own way are a form of sharing in the responsibility that we are talking about. In the accommodated sense, it is "collegial action," but it is not collegiality in the sense spoken of in the Vatican Council.

Q. — How successful was the synod as a whole?

A. — It is difficult to appraise at this short range. The Fathers spoke in complete candor, as you know. They were able to communicate directly to the Pope, for he was present. This was all part of the process. His presence was one of many ways to bring the bishops together in collegial fashion.

Q. — Has he spoken with all the synodal Fathers in these two weeks?

A. — At the coffee break during the morning sessions, he mingled freely with all of us as we had our coffee or other drinks. Perhaps I should say our coffee or soft drinks. The Pope was free and open and entirely informal and made it a point to come up to speak with any of the Fathers who were there. I know also that he spent many of his evenings in conversation with many of the Fathers.

Q. — Will the synod influence the episcopal conference in the United States? How will it affect the bishops?

A. — Well, I think it will keep us moving toward accomplishing collegiality with the Holy Father as our head for the benefit of the Church in the United States and in the Church universal. Further, I think the synod has made us more conscious now of what an influence our common action has in the United States. There is no longer any value in isolation, and as this notion grows, we bishops are going to become increasingly aware of our responsibility to the conference and to the universal Church—as well as the local Church.

Q. — Did you receive much reaction from people in the United States expounding their views, their hopes or fears in regard to the synod?

A. — Yes, I received many messages from our people in which a wide range of opinion was expressed. On the one hand, many feared that we would pose a threat to the authority of the Holy Father. To them, I would emphatically state that this was never the desire of any synodal Father. On the other hand, there were those who felt that the synod should consider a wide range of items not on the agenda. To all those who contacted me I would make it clear that I read their expressions very closely. Everyone who wrote to me, regardless of their viewpoint, assured me they would pray for the success of the synod, and I feel that is very gratifying.

## TV Religion Too Dull?

(Continued from Page 1)

If there is any doubt in your mind as to what their attraction is, imagine your own pastor or minister before the camera giving the identical talks of these two television "personalities."

The poor Sunday morning time slots available to religious programming notwithstanding, the real problem of attracting viewers to electronic religion is a matter of the proper showcase.

Sneer as we may at the image of the slick, polished, Madison Avenue style of presentation that is a must in all commercial TV efforts, we must also concede that we are easily ensnared by it.

The reason why so many of us find it hard to become interested in present religious television offerings is the same reason so many of us mentally fall asleep during the brief, 20-minute sermon we get once a week in church: Our speakers are non-professional speakers and for the most part are poorly trained in communicating from the lectern.

Professionalism in communications has become a stark necessity or an unsettling disease according to one's own personal view in this the last half of the 20th Century.

But, if religion wants to become a vital part of the television world it has to play the game according to the medium's sophisticated rules.

May we hope that the arrival of a new Bishop will bring an apostolate of high-class Catholic radio and TV to this area?

# Halloween Night...

## FOR A REAL TREAT...

see an UNFORGETTABLE TRICK!

See Dante, the Magician, challenge Houdini's strait jacket escape record at a height of 180 feet!

Friday, October 31 at 7:15 p.m.

Also appearing — "The Sorcerers"

McCurdy's LONGRIDGE SHOP TONIGHT TIL 9:30