

# Fr. Widman Serves At St. Ignatius

After 23 years of service as a chaplain in the Navy, Father John A. Widman has returned to work in the Diocese of Rochester.

Last month, Father Widman was invited to St. Ignatius Church, Hornell, by the diocesan personnel board and Bishop Hickey. He was asked to assist the parish during the hospitalization and recuperation of its pastor, Father Joseph Haffey. The following are his impressions of parish life.

By FR. JOHN A. WIDMAN

Prior to my arrival in Hornell, I was briefed somewhat by Father John Hedges and Msgr. Robert Keleher, both of whom are known here, and who are now at St. Charles Borromeo, Greece.

They spoke in most complimentary fashion about the City of Hornell and about the great faith of the Catholics of this area, particularly of the members of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish.

My brief experience has only served to heighten the favorable preview they gave. The openness and friendliness of the people of St. Ignatius are really outstanding. Many parishioners have gone out of their way to express appreciation and gratitude for the little I have been able to do during the short time I have been here.

## Hornell Area Notes

**Wayland** — Sister Wilma Joseph, principal, and Joseph Ruocco of St. Joseph's School attended a Physical Education Seminar on Nov. 23 at Holy Trinity, Webster.

**Wayland** — A student government group has elected officers. Officers include David Schubmehl, president; William Morsch, vice president; Kim Hober, treasurer.

**Hornell** — Twelve youngsters in St. Ann's parish will be making their First Holy Communion between now and Christmas. The next set of interviews will be in January for those who want to make First Communion before Lent; then there will be another series during Lent for Easter time receptions.

**Bath** — The second Sunday of Advent, Dec. 5th, St. Mary's Mass was broadcast over WFSR at 10 a.m. Music was by the Adult Choir and congregation.

**Dansville** — The Ladies Guild annual Christmas Party will be December 9 in the School Auditorium, beginning at 6 p.m.

## 'Babes in Toyland' Due at Nazareth

Victor Herbert's musical "Babes in Toyland", coming to the Nazareth Arts Center for two performances Saturday, Dec. 18, currently is playing sold-out houses in New York's Town Hall.

Reserved seat tickets for "Babes in Toyland" are now on sale at Original Performances Inc., 232 Midtown Plaza (Terrace Level at Xerox Crossover), or by mail (14604) or phone 325-1070.

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The hospitality extended by Father Paul Cuddy, of St. James Mercy Hospital, by Father Robert MacNamara, of St. Ann's Church, the Sisters of Mercy of St. James Mercy Hospital, as well as the warmth of Father Vogt of St. Joachim, Canisteo, and of Father Sturmer of Cohocton — all these have convinced me that there are few places in the world that can make one feel so welcome so quickly. I am glad to be here.

Recently I have become interested in the Marriage Encounter Movement in the Diocese of Rochester. I made my first encounter weekend last June in the Cenacle. Later I attended a training weekend to

become qualified to act as part of the team presenting such weekends.

Subsequently I have been part of a team on two different occasions. The main purpose of such activity is to help good marriages become better. My commitments in this field have made me feel like a commuter between Hornell and Rochester. I hope to be offering yet further assistance, where possible, to Father Robert Collins, the director of this program.

My immediate plans are to make myself available to the people of St. Ignatius Loyola Parish till such time as Father Haffey feels that he is able again to take over the work of the parish.

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