Wednesday, July 11, 1979

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High School Chaplain Leaves Behind a Tradition of Caring

By Joan M. Smith

Young at heart best describes Father Walter Cushing. In energy alone he outdistances youth.

"He has to be one of the most ambitious persons I've met in my whole life," declared recent St. Agnes graduate, Barbara Keeler.

Junior Colleen Jones heartily agreed, "He's always willing to help on the spur of the moment," and Sister Anne Guerin, principal, declared, "He's certainly talented and generous in sharing his talents."

Fitting salutations for the St. Agnes chaplain who, after 17 years, will be leaving the school for another assignment. During those 17 years, Father has involved himself in every aspect of school life with a typical day beginning at the 6 a.m. Mass for the sisters at the convent; then over to his office by 8 a.m. where the student radio station, WTNT, (which he

casting; then on to classes where over the years he taught a senior marital course, a morality class for sophs and Theology; throughout the day he would be available for counseling, confessions, and religious instructions. With his evenings filled with parent meetings there wasn't a school activity - college bowl, senior bonfire, junior prom, magazine drive which didn't benefit from his expertise either in coordinating them, entertaining at them, or photographing them. Because of his special interest in photography, he just finished three years as yearbook photographer during which time he estimated, "I've taken at least 4000 pictures!"

moderated) begins broad-

As if all this activity wasn't enough to keep him occupied, Father has been chaplain of the Monroe County Penitentiary; served in the Family Life Office as associate director; served on pre-cana committees; assists at St. Theodore's parish on week-ends and is on



Contest Winner

Mark Mancuso receives a \$250 scholarship award from Commander Ralph Edwards, Catholic War Veterans, for winning first place With Mark are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mancuso and Father Albert De Pascale, pastor of St. Anthony's Church. Mark will attend Aquinas Institute.

Lynn Gross, one of Father's converts this past year, Colleen and Barb chat with him outside St. Agnes. emergency call as substitute chaplain with Strong Memorial Hospital. Theology. As far as Father's concerned, working with the young people these last years has kept him young and he maintains that school chaplains are an important

has been attending summer sessions at Notre Dame University for a master's in

According to students and faculty, Father has been more than a religious presence. He's been a friend, confidant, counselor and helpmate. As one yearbook's salute put it ... "Our stage would be void of flats, props, and sound equipment for plays and assemblies if not for the talents he is willing to share ..." The passage referred to his numerous hobbies video-taping, woodcarving, and record collecting — the fruits of which are highly

first arrived." But then the smile as he was back asking the students about their summer plans and future goals.

Little Irish Safe in Finals

By Terrance J. Brennan

aspect of the ministry. He

contends that their presence

"says something to the young people that the

Church is concerned for

Sister Sheila Briody will

follow Father Cushing as

the school's chaplain. She

has been a member of the

Theology Department and

them.

John Loiacono's no-out single through a drawn-in infield in the bottom of the seventh inning gave Aquinas the only run it needed as the Little Irish nipped Fairport, 1-0, in the sectional baseball I thought no one would cover AAA championship game June 16 at Silver Stadium.

leading hitter, on deck. Loiacono bunted the first pitch foul. He took strike two but Alomar and Peacock pulled off a double steal.

"The third baseman was playing inside for the bunt and the base so I left." Alomar said later. With two strikes and the runners now at second and third, Loiacono was hitting away. His high bouncer easily cleared the Red Raiders' drawn-in infield and Alomar breezed home as the Aquinas bench started the celebration.

two runs.

double play.

In the seventh, with one out and, again, runners on first and second, Rick Persons hit a grounder up the middle. Shortstop Loiacono caught it on the second hop, stepped on second and fired a strike to first baseman Bob Magee to complete the inning-ending

Photo by Joan M. Smith

evident in the packing crates and cartons that crowd his office waiting to be moved.

Father is a goodnatured person, always smiling and joking about the memories he's leaving behind at St. Agnes. However, there was a moment the other day when the Courier-Journal interviewed him when nostalgia crept through. He pointed to a large, leafy maple tree, resting close to the convent, and explained, "It was just a sapling when I



First hand Study **Of Far East Culture**

Sister Joan McDowell's Nazareth Academy Asian African Culture class, recently presented her classmates with a look into Chinese culture. She displayed Chinese paintings produced on paper and bamboo and also demonstrated the art of calligraphy.

Polly was born in Taiwan and came to the U.S. when she was nine years old. Her mother arrived first and worked as a nurse before the rest of the family joined her. The Chiang family speak Chinese in their home and are also fluent in English. When asked about schools in Taiwan, Polly said they were

Polly Chiang, a member of stricter there than in America and that Chinese students must go to school on Saturdays.

The game provided quite a pitchers' duel between highly touted Jeff Smith of Fairport and Aquinas' no-hit specialist Greg Tuttle. Tuttle hurled one no-hitter during the regular season, then followed it in the playoffs with another in the semi-finals against Irondequoit.

The Little Irish (17-9) threatened quite a bit, pushing runners into scoring position in four of the first six innings, but couldn't break through Fairport (18-8) until the seventh.

Second baseman Tony Alomar laced Smith's first pitch in the seventh inning to right for a single. Designated hitter Bill Peacock bunted, trying to sacrifice Alomar over to second base. Smith fielded the ball, wheeled and threw to second base too late to catch the speedy Alomar.

Loiacono stepped up, ready to bunt the runners again with Mike Visconte, Aquinas'

"All I was hoping for was just to make contact with the ball," Loiacono said after the game. "I wasn't hesitating. I wasn't about to take a third strike.

Tuttle scattered five hits, walked three and struck out eight while raising his record to 8-3. But on this night, it was his defense that saved the game.

In the fourth inning, with runners on first and second and two out, Fairport's Jon West hammered a long fly to center field. Visconte broke with the crack of the bat, running with his back to home plate. He lunged for it at the last second and fell to the ground with the ball in his glove. His effort saved at least

Program To be Aired **For Teens**

Teenagers will have the chance to watch "Free to be Me", a program for adults and teens which will be broadcast over Channel 21 on July 14,21,28 from 9-10 a.m. with repeats at noon on Tuesdays, July 17,24,31.

The program focuses on Father John Powell as he probes into what it means to be a person who is fully alive. He explores the meaning of freedom and its relationship to the way we think and feel about ourselves, other people, life, the world and God.

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The series is being presented at the request of the Diocese of Rochester's Office of Religious Education with the endorsement of the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries.