

New Pastor For Precious Blood

Father David Bonin, CPPS, is the new pastor of Most Precious Blood Church — the fifth to serve the 50-year-old parish at Stenson and Lexington. He had been assistant pastor since 1978.

Father Bonin is a son of Mr. and Mrs. George Bonin of Loderdale Road, Gates. He is a graduate of St. John Fisher College and of St. Bernard's Seminary, where he received the Master of Divinity degree in 1974. He was assistant at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Niles, Ohio, during the first four years of his priesthood.

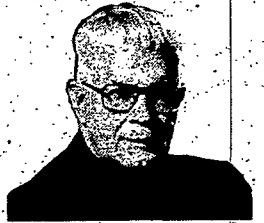


FR. BONIN

announced the appointment of the new pastor on May 4.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Memoranda On a Tour Of Duty

May 4, Ecumenical Service at Webster United Methodist Church, to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Webster Village. Priests who had served at Webster returned: Fathers Mura, Michatek, Heindl, Heisel; plus local vocation, Basilian Father Bob Klem; plus local priests, Fathers Bush, Reif, Wolfe and O'Connor, who was on the committee; plus Bishop Clark as preacher, with his secretary, Fr. Latus. And especially noteworthy was Brother Benjamin Beh of the Redemptorist N.D. Retreat House. Separated brethren included a nice lady minister in Roman collar and black rabat. Someone chuckled: "The Catholic sisters have gone into secular disguise. The Protestant lady clergy wear Roman vesture as witnesses to their vocation. 'Who hath known the mind of the Lord,' or of religious women?" With great virtue I kept a discreet silence. Combined church choirs were glorious. The Service was inspiring. The cookies and unspiked punch afterward added cheer to our souls.

May 5, St. Patrick's, Moravia. Mrs. Clara Savage O'Connell, a friend from Ithaca days, had invited me to address the Altar and Rosary Society. I wanted to talk about evangelization. But Rosarians Alice Green and Naomi Mahoney had been with me to Ireland, and the ladies wanted Ireland. We combined the two. Now 32 ladies bought 26 copies of Living the Catholic Faith Today, to evangelize Moravia and Locke. Two old friends, Pastor Father G. McMahon, a history buff, and my good classmate Fr. Wm. Gaynor, retired but active, made the meeting a special success.

May 11, Father Bart O'Brien had invited me to take his place for the weekend, while he gave the annual retreat for the Southern Tier Women's Retreat League at Our Lady of the Pocosinos. Father Firpo received me like a solicitous grandson caring for a revered grandfather. Josephine the housekeeper had prepared her specials, including borscht. The parish is impressive. There should be many vocations

from there if the vocation message is that of the cross and self-discipline, rather than to a soft kind of work. In 1944 I picked up a vocation pamphlet in Dothan, Alabama, from a religious community in Alabama, that read: "Join our Community and within a year of ordination you will be a pastor with an automobile of your own." A far cry from Christ's "If you will be my disciples, take up your cross daily and follow me." I think there are many potential vocations, but the voice calling must be the voice of the self-emptying Christ. Thomas a Kempis's Imitation of Christ, so useful to St. Ignatius of Loyola and so rejected by progressive religious would do more for vocations than the intimations of psychological hedonism. After 12:30 Mass, a lady came in smiling: "I am a convert of many years, and am still learning. I was at your Mass here on January 1. You talked about the rosary, and I was not much impressed. But for some reason I began to say the rosary January 2, and haven't missed a day since." *Benedicamus Domino!*

En route to Horseheads, I phoned Fr. Paul Schnacky: "I will be going through Wayland after lunch. Let's have coffee together." It gave us an hour to renew a good friendship. At 3 p.m. Father Michael Hogan, former secretary to abp. Sheen, stopped at Wayland returning to Corning from a conference. He said: "Stop for supper." I did. The cook pulled out all the stops to welcome Fr. Hogan home, so the venerable Fr. Thomas Brennan; the youthful Fr. Peters, the delightful Fr. Hogan and I had a happy supper, united in our common love for Christ's Church. Afterward I popped over to St. Vincent's. Fathers J. Hogan, Beligotti and Brill were hearing confessions, but finished at 7:30. Fr. Hogan had a half hour before his next appointment, so we went to his study. On the table was Msgr. George Kelly's book, *Battle for the American Church*. Fr. Hogan said: "Our Adult Study Group used this for several meetings. They were appalled, but enlightened." Father Leonard Kelly used the same with his study group in Fairport. I am surprised at the number of priests who have read this book from beginning to end, with astonishment.

Holy Hour

at a Mass celebrating the 50th anniversary of the parish. Father David, as his people call him, is treasurer of the Precious Blood Fathers, the order that always has staffed the church. He succeeds Father Joseph Gentili, who died last March.

Father Michael Sullivan will lead the Holy Hour scheduled at 7:30 p.m., Monday, June 9, at Our Lady of Mercy Motherhouse. The series of Holy Hours are sponsored by the Holy Trinity Chapter of the Peoples Eucharistic League.

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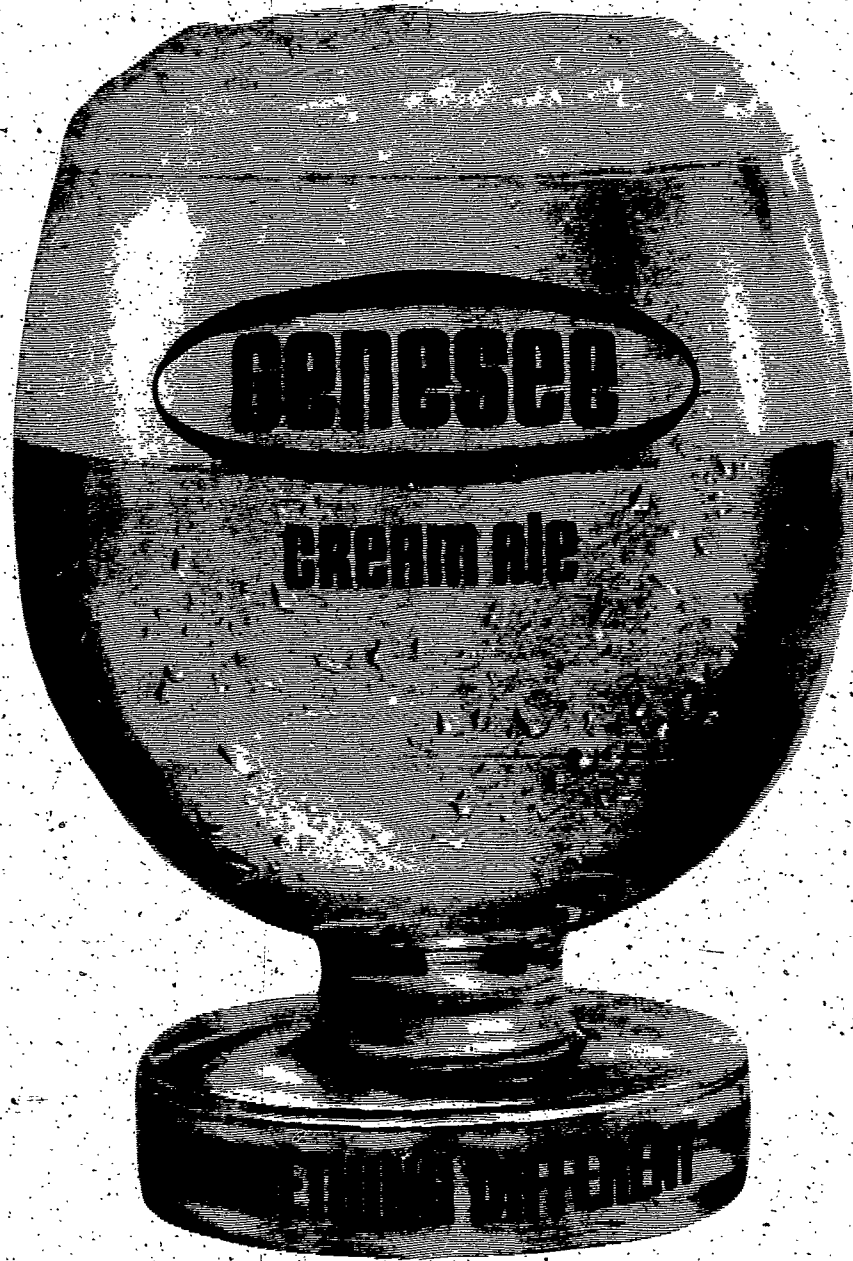
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