



Father Robert Kreckel (left) clowns with Father James Boyle (right) prior to a meeting of the executive committee of Priests Ministry. Other members of the committee are (from left) Fathers Louis Vasile, James Schwartz, chairman, and Paul J. Ryan.

Ministry to Priests Enters Second Year

Who is the priest's priest? To that question, an answer, perhaps, may be found in the nearly one-year-old diocesan Ministry to Priests. "That is the question to which the Ministry to Priests seeks to respond," Father James Schwartz, head of the service for more than a third of the diocesan clergy, said last week.

"Priests as well as all Christians are called to view their spiritual lives as a journey in faith to the Father. Growth in the spiritual life is a life-long process," he said.

At a recent executive committee meeting of the ministry, Father Schwartz stated that "a primary ministry of the priest is to provide spiritual direction to religious and the laity in their journey of faith. If priests are to effectively provide spiritual direction for others, they need to be in spiritual direction themselves. Priests, too, need to wrestle with and grow in their living out of the discipleship of Jesus."

He explained that "priests need to be aware of and respond to the concerns of each other. Ministry to priests believes that in the deeply felt

needs of priests, the voice of the Spirit can be present calling the individual priests and the whole Church to holiness. Priests, too, are wounded pilgrims. They struggle with loneliness and look for the support of close relationships."

He identified the needs of priests as being for life planning to establish priorities and to articulate felt needs; to cope with anger and frustration; to feel comfortable with their sexuality as they live out the vow of celibacy; for discipline to make time for prayer; and for spiritual direction in their life.

Headquarters for the ministry is at the Continuing Education Center at St. Bernard's Seminary.

Father Schwartz also announced last week the addition of three new members of the team for the ministry: Fathers Benedict Ehmann, George Wiant, and Anthony Valente. The trio, he said, recently completed an intensive workshop in Fort Wayne, Ind., to prepare them for their work.

The team also includes Fathers William Barrett, Francis Blighton, James Boyle, James Burke, William Graf, Robert Kreckel, Richard O'Connell, Ed Palumbos, P.J. Ryan, Paul Schnacky, Don Schwab, Dick Stanton, Bill Trott, Louis Vasile and Walter Wainwright. Father Schwartz said the team meets on a bi-monthly basis "to assess the most effective way of nourishing spiritual growth for priests. Individual spiritual direction as well as support groups among priests are also fostered."

At Your Parish...

Corpus Christi

A comedy-variety show, "A Little Show Biz (very little)," will be presented on Friday, July 18, at Corpus Christi Church Hall beginning at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$1.50 for adults and .50 for children. Money raised from the show will be used for the Corpus Christi Center, currently being renovated. The public is invited.



Father Paul Brennan accepts a gift from parish council president Betty Anderson. Sister Sweeney looks on at left.

Holy Ghost

The Super Church Festival of Holy Ghost parish is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m., Friday, July 17, and 6 p.m., Saturday, July 19. If either is rained out, the festival will take place at 4 p.m., Sunday, July 20.

Immaculate Conception

The Pastoral Team at Immaculate Conception was surprised recently by parishioners. Father Paul Brennan and Sister Frances Sweeney, SSJ, were honored for the "service rendered by

them to the Immaculate Conception parish throughout the years," according to a parish spokesman.

The celebration came as a complete surprise midway through the regular Sunday Liturgy. Both Father Brennan and Sister Sweeney received gift certificates from parish members and a "feast" was served after the Mass.

It was reported that a fine time was had by all, with Father Brennan's family in attendance.

Blessed Sacrament, Rochester

Elections for parish council took place recently at Blessed Sacrament parish. Officers for the 1980-81 year are: Bill Wynne, president; Mike Keller, vice president; and

John Lenticchia, secretary.

Other council members include Jack Hodges, Joe Schumacher, Grace Murray and Barbara Clark.

Deaths

Sister Thomasina

Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Thomasina Purcell of the Sisters of St. Joseph took place in the Motherhouse Chapel Saturday, June 28. The Mass was celebrated by Msgr. William Shannon, assisted by Father Charles Adams and Father Sebastian Contegiacomo.

Sister Thomasina died in the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary on June 26. She was 86.

Sister Thomasina entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from East Bloomfield in 1911. She taught in the parochial schools of the diocese for 18 years, including St. Patrick's

Cathedral, Rochester; St. Stephen's, Geneva; Holy Apostles, Rochester (11 years), and St. John the Evangelist, Spencerport. She opened the Spencerport school and was its first principal.

After the period of teaching, she assisted in the training of novices at the Motherhouse and also was in charge of the infirmary. From 1936 to 1946, she was director of novices. She later was principal of the following schools, each for a period of six years: St. Paul's, Oswego, and Holy Rosary, Rochester.

She was administrator of St. Ann's Home from 1958 to 1964 and supervised the moving from the original home to the present one on Portland Avenue. From 1951

to 1963, she also was a member of the General Council of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

From 1964 to 1967, she served in various capacities at Nazareth Academy, including study halls supervision. She retired to the infirmary in 1967.

She is survived by two nephews, Robert Campbell of Webster and Raymond Campbell of St. Charles, Ill.; a sister-in-law, Mrs. Thomas Purcell of Pittsburgh, and two nieces also of Pittsburgh, Mrs. J.M. (Ruth) Neely and Mrs. R.S. (Doris) Leathers.

Burial was in the Sisters Section of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery on Monday, June 30.

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