

Father Epping Notes 60 Priestly Years

On June 11, Father Raymond J. Epping, former pastor of St. Theodore's Parish where he served for 23 years, will note the 60th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Father Epping, the son of Frank and Julia Miller Epping of Rochester, attended Immaculate Conception School, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries and Niagara University. He was ordained by Bishop Joseph H. Conroy of Ogdensburg in Rochester's St. Patrick's Cathedral.

He was first assigned to Old St. Mary's and, later, to St. Michael's in Penn Yan.

After an eight-year post on the faculty of Aquinas Institute, Father Epping was named pastor of St. Theodore Church, in 1937.

Following the Second World War, the Gates area saw a rapid increase in population and suburban development. Father Epping oversaw the construction of a new church and a new school. In addition, convent facilities were doubled and



FATHER EPPING the parish properties renovated. He retired from active
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Viewers Praise Series

By John Dash

The vast majority of diocesans answering a recent survey have rated the diocese's maiden voyage into television communications, "Real to Reel," as either excellent or good.

"Real to Reel," a television series produced by a specially commissioned group under the chairmanship of Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND, provided viewers in every corner of the diocese with

REAL TO REEL

views of both national and local church people performing unique ministries.

The survey results were released last weekend at the Diocesan Pastoral Council meeting at Bishop Kearney High School.

The effort was made possible by diocesan contributors to the Catholic Communication Campaign, an annual appeal for funds which will be held here next weekend.

The first "Real to Reel" season was financed with the results of the first two years of the collection, Sister Roberta said. The future of the program, she said, is contingent on the success of this year's drive.

For the drive not to succeed, she said, "We would lose a great teaching moment and moment of evangelization."

More than two-thirds of the

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Theme, Logo Chosen For Bishop's Appeal

DPC gives support, page 2.

The joy of giving. That is the underlying theme of the Annual Catholic Thanksgiving Appeal which Bishop Matthew H. Clark is inaugurating this November to support the many and varied diocesan programs.

A logo, which unites visually the aspects of gratitude and of joyful giving, has been chosen as a symbol of this theme.

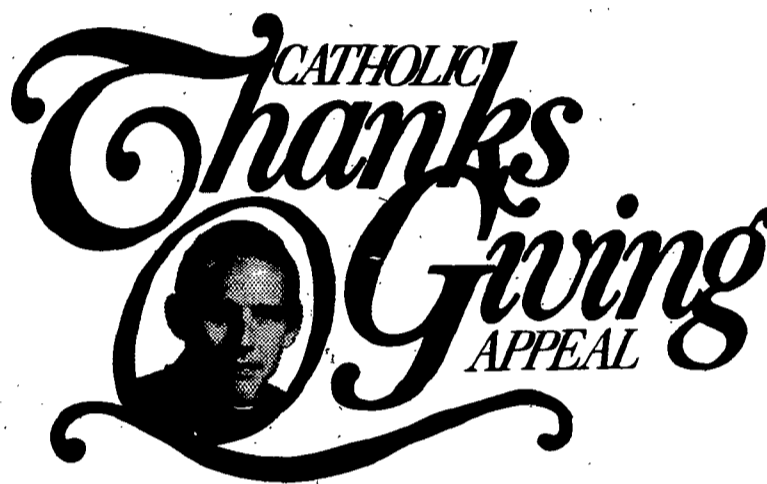
Bishop Clark, in urging support for the appeal, quoted from Luke, Chapter 6, "For if you give, you will

"For if you give, you will receive! Your gift will return to you in full and overflowing measure." Luke 6:38.

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Because the drive will be a direct appeal to individual parishioners, it is seen by the Pastoral Center as a more positive approach to fulfilling diocesan needs

than the method heretofore employed of assessing a percentage of each parish's funds annually. With the new appeal in November, such assessment will be erased through direct financial involvement of parishioners.



This type of appeal is used by the seven other dioceses in New York State and by most dioceses nationwide.

In addition to helping

those in need within the 12 counties of the diocese, the campaign hopes to enlighten diocesans about the various operations conducted in their behalf through diocesan programs.

A special feature of the appeal is that individual parishes may also share in the proceeds. A parish will receive 80 percent of all money contributed above the specific goal set for it.

Parish Special: Two for One

By John Dash

Seneca Falls — A nun who loves stock-car racing is leaving her post with St. Patrick's Church to enter a Carmelite monastery in Wisconsin.

Two young people who love stock-car racing are taking over her job, after they quit their high-paying jobs to dedicate the first year of their married life to the service of the Church. They too will forego attendance at stock-car races, because they simply

won't have the money to get in the gate.

John Dragone and Kathy Malone, he a career guidance counselor and she pharmacist, will be wed in August and will become the parish's first youth ministry team.

Sister Christine Lloyd, the founder of the office and its occupant for the past two years will then enter the cloistered life and strict regime of Carmel.

And the parish council's

efforts to reach young people will stay on target.

Father Michael Conboy, pastor, said last week that the parish had been aware for a number of years that there was a problem with the traditional means of reaching young people.

He said that more than two years ago parish staff resolved to show its concern for young people by having a full-time person on staff work in youth ministry.

That resolution was

presented to the parish council which "almost unanimously endorsed" such a move and which approved the hiring of the Sister of St. Joseph who had previously worked at St. Agnes High School.

Since then, "Sister Christine has done a tremendous job. Her approach has been quite different from other programs," Father Conboy said.

When it became known that Sister Christine wished to enter Carmel, the council again committed itself to youth ministry and to maintaining the office, he said.

Following a number of interviews Dragone and Ms. Malone were hired. Part of the selling point, the priest said, was their desire to dedicate a full year of service to the Church.

The case is an extraordinary example of the "Christian community enjoying the services of its members," Father Conboy commented.

Sister Christine's approach to developing the parish ministry began with a promise "to start small, and to be present to the kids in all the different places" they congregate.

With a twinkle in her eye, the very young-looking woman religious admits that "at first I was able to go into the public school — I was very visible."



Ms. Malone and Dragone relaxing in the parlor of St. Patrick's Church.

Since those early days, the youth of the parish have staged two 30-hour fasts, raising funds for the hungry of the world; brought clown ministry to hospitals, nursing homes, a nearby developmental center, and the main streets of nearby towns; have engaged in retreats both as leaders and as participants; and have immersed themselves in Bible study and sought out spiritual direction.

The decision to take on such a ministry was a long time in development for Dragone and Malone. "Kathy and I for some time had been talking about doing something in the framework of the Catholic Church," Dragone said recently. "We had been postponing taking action for some time, until we decided to do something now."

"We both felt a void in our lives," Ms. Malone explained. "We had been following the

American dream, with money and careers; and we realized there had to be more. We wanted to develop our selves and to develop our faith."

Sister Christine said that the ministry as it now stands enables the young people to see the minister not as the minister solely of "religion," but as "interested in the whole life of the kids."

She furthered the thought by stressing the importance for the "kids to become ministers to each other," as, she said, they are already doing in such instances as helping with Confirmation preparations and assisting in retreat presentations.

The encouragement of the adult community to become involved with youth ministry is also an objective to be sought, she said.



Parish leaders, all connected with youth ministry, assemble on the church lawn: (from left) Anne Marie Shipley, teenage member of the parish council; Ms. Malone, Dragone, Steve Siegfried, also a teenage member of the parish council; Sister Christine and Father Conboy.