

# Priests Share 120 Years Service to God, Country

Three diocesan priests who served most of their priestly lives in service to both God and Country as military chaplains are celebrating their 40th anniversaries of ordination.

The three are Msgr. John F. Albert of Albuquerque, N.M.; and twin brothers, Msgr. Gerard and Msgr. Joseph Gefell of Coronado Drive in Rochester.

The three were ordained in Rochester's old St. Patrick's Cathedral by Bishop James E. Kearney, June 7, 1941.

Msgr. Albert attended Holy Cross Grammar School, and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries prior to his ordination. He was first assigned to St. Mary's Church in Corning.

He entered the U.S. Army by direct commission as a chaplain in 1945 and attended Chaplains School at Fort Devens, Mass., and later Fort Lee, Va. After serving three years in the Philippine Islands, he was assigned to Carswell Air Force Base, Tex. He transferred to the U.S. Air Force when it became a separate organization.

He has served chaplaincies

at Ramey, Puerto Rico; Loring, Me.; West Drayton, East Kirkby and Lakenheath, England; Bolling, Washington, D.C.; Naha, Okinawa; Lackland, Tex.; Ent, Colo.; Elmdorf, where he served as command chaplain for Alaska Air Command and Alaskan Command, as command chaplain for Strategic Air Command, Neb.

He assumed the duties of deputy chief of chaplains at U.S. Air Force Headquarters in 1970. A year earlier he was designated a monsignor by Pope Paul VI.

He retired in 1972 and took a post organizing a new parish for the Archdiocese of Denver in Colorado Springs, Colo. He retired that post in 1974 and a year later moved to Albuquerque where he assists chaplains at Kirtland Air Force Base.

The brothers Gefell attended St. Michael's School and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

Msgr. Gerard Gefell was first assigned to St. Alphonsus in Auburn and to St. Michael's in Newark before entering the U.S. Army as a chaplain in 1948.

He has served chaplaincies at Fort Monmouth, N.J.; in Frankfort, Germany; Heidelberg, Germany. He attended the Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan. in 1954, after returning to Fort Jay, Governor's Island, and Camp Drum.

He and his twin brother were assigned to Alaska duty and prepared at Fort Lewis Washington. There he became chaplain for troops of the 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division at Fort Richardson.

In 1960 both transferred to Fort Bragg for paratroop training. In 1963 Msgr. Gerard was in Suwon, Korea, and a year later at Army Combat Development Command, Fort Lee, Va.

He was with the troops in Vietnam until 1967. In 1971 he reported from Fort Bragg as XVII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg Post Chaplain. In 1967 he had been named a monsignor by Pope Paul VI.

Following his retirement from the military he returned to a serve the parish of St. Mary's of the Lake, Ontario; and St. Lawrence, Greece.

Msgr. Joseph Gefell was first assigned as a priest to St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Paterson, N.J. Two years later he returned to Rochester to serve at Holy Family Church and St. Francis Xavier Church.

He entered the Army in 1945 and was sent to the Philippine Islands. A year later he was transferred to Japan.

He returned to the U.S. in 1947 and served as assistant pastor of St. Theodore Church. He re-entered the Army in 1951 and served as assistant chaplain to the 11th Airborne



At a 1970 reunion in Washington D.C., the Msgrs. Gerard Gefell, John Albert and Joseph Gefell.

Division until 1953, when he went to Korea. In 1954 and 1955 he served at Fort Dix, N.J. From 1959 to 1963 he served as Deputy Corps Chaplain XVIII Airborne Corps, Fort Bragg, N.C. He has also served at Fort McPherson, Ga., in Germany, at Military District Headquarters, Washington, and Vietnam.

He had been elevated to the rank of monsignor by Pope Paul VI in 1967.

He assumed the pastorate of St. Alphonsus in Auburn in 1973 on his retirement from the military. He was named temporary administrator of Holy Cross in Rochester in 1976.



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## Doctorate

Father J. Peter Conroy, SJ, a Rochester native who is director of Buffalo Campus Ministries and who also teaches in the Religious Studies Department at Canisius College, received a Doctor of Philosophy in Early Church History at the 136th annual commencement at Fordham University on May 25. A graduate of St. Augustine's grammar school and McQuaid Jesuit High School, Father Conroy was ordained at St. John the Evangelist in 1971.



## Sister Ann Habershaw, SSND

Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect



### Teaching Provides Satisfaction

Youth surround me! As a teacher in a Catholic high school, I formally meet nearly two hundred each day and come into informal contact with many more. They are vibrant, moving, unpredictable, and as teacher I must determine when to be flexible and when to allow the security of routine to predominate. Academics is not on the top of every high schooler's list of priorities so a teacher faces a constant challenge in imparting the knowledge and values that are essential for life as a responsible Christian. There are times of frustration when I feel I have been perfectly clear and am met by blank stares and when I am tried by perpetual forgetters. The elation, however, when a student says, "I remembered you told us we could do it

well prepared lesson.

Seemingly, a high school never sleeps. I am only getting my feet wet in school activities, but I have met speech team members and newspaper staff on a Saturday morning, heard the band practice late into the evening, and run into a variety of aspiring athletes at all hours. There are students who give service in many ways, such as one who recently filmed a video tape to be used in a day of recollection for a group of elementary school teachers. With these students are dedicated teachers encouraging, correcting, complimenting.

I pray with and for my students every day. I pray that they will know that they are loved and gifted; I pray that they will use their gifts and will make wise choices.

Teaching is the Church's oldest ministry but is ever new. It is exciting to be part of this ministry involving the questioners, the doers, the reflectors who will comprise the future of the Church. I am awed at the challenge.

Sister Ann Habershaw, SSND, is a teacher at Bishop Kearney High School.

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