# Nine Priests to Celebrate 40th Anniversaries

The ordination class of 1943, Fathers Leo Lynch, William Riefer, L. John Hedges, Andrew J. Kalafsky, Eugene M. McFarland, John E. Roach, and Gennaro J. Ventura and Msgrs. Albert H. Schnacky and William H. Shannon, is noting its 40th anniversary of ordination.

Fathers Ventura and Lynch were ordained in December, 1943, and the remainder of the class in June.

Father Lynch, who retired in 1979, is in residence at St. Helen's Church, where his classmate, Father Hedges, is pastor.

Father Lynch attended Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary School, St. Theodore's School and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. He sserved the first six years of his priesthood at St. Mary's Church in Elmira. In 1951, he was named to the chaplaincy of St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell, and in 1957, to the same post at St. Ann's Home. In 1969 he was made pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Seneca Falls, and in 1978, associate pastor of Guardian Angels in Henrietta.

Father Riefer is a native of Hornell and attended St. Ann's School and Hornell High School before entering St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. His first assignment was as assistant at St. Alphonsus in Auburn.

In 1944 he began a 20-year assignment to St. Andrew's Seminary. In 1964, Father Riefer was appointed pastor of St. Theresa, Stanley and St. Mary, Rushville.

In 1967 he was named pastor of St. Francis in Phelps. He was made chaplain to the infirmary of the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1970, and, a year later, was assigned the pastorate of St. Joseph's Church in Wayland.

Father Riefer retired in 1973 and lives in Gorham.

Father Hedges is also a Hornell native, and attended St. Ann's School and Hornell High School before studying at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

He was first assigned to Immaculate Conception in Ithaca, and, in 1948, to Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Brockport.

In 1951, Father Hedges was named to Old St. Mary's Church, and a year later to part-time work as chaplain at the University of Rochester.

In 1963, he was assigned to the U. of R. full-time.

Father Hedges was made pastor of St. Charles Borromeo in Rochester in 1968, and pastor of St. Helen's Church a decade later.

Father Kalafsky, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Church in Watkins Glen, is a native of New Jersey, and was, until 1970, a priest of the Archdiocese of Newark.

He was ordained June 19, 1943 and served at Holy Name Church, East Orange; Our Lady of Peace, New Providence; St. Luke, Ho-Ho-Kus; St. Francis DeSales, Lodi; and St. Matthew, Ridgefield.

Father Kalafsky came to the Diocese of Rochester and was named associate at St. Thomas the Apostle in 1970. In 1976 he was given his present post.

Father McFarland, pastor since 1965 of St. Patrick's Church in Macedon, which this year celebrates its centenary, is a Rochester native who attended Immaculate Conception School and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

He was first assigned to St. Philip Neri Church in Rochester, and later that year to S. John the Evangelist in Clyde.

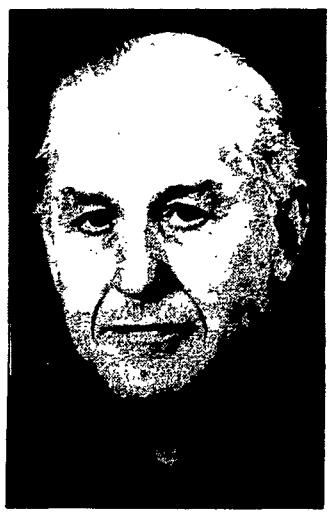
In 1945, Father McFarland was assigned to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, a post he held until 1953 when

FATHER LYNCH

FATHER HEDGES

FATHER MCFARLAND

FATHER RIEFER



FATHER ROACH

MSGR. SCHNACKY

MSGR. SHANNON

FATHER VENTURA

he was named diocesan director of Youth Work.

He was assigned his first pastorate, at St. James in Trumansburg in 1965. Several months later he was named pastor of St. Patrick's.

Father Roach has been pastor of St. Felix Church in Clifton Springs since 1966.

He attended St. John the Evangelist School in Greece and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

He was first assigned to Immaculate Conception in Rochester, then to St. Leo's in Hilton, and, in 1948, to Holy Apostles in Rochester where he remained until 1962.

In that year Father Roach was named to St. Patrick's in Corning, where he worked until his present post.

Msgr. Schnacky has served St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Mendon in various roles since 1956.

The Rochester native attended St. Boniface School and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

His first assignment was as assistant pastor of St. Andrew's Church in Rochester, and, three years later, was named assistant at St. Mary's Church in Auburn.

In 1947, he was appointed diocesan director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. In that same year he was named to Good Shepherd in Henrietta and St. Joseph in Rush, and gained the further duty of diocesan director of Catholic Rural Life.

In 1956 he was named administrator of St. Catherine and chaplain to the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph, later advancing to the pastorate of the Mendon parish. He was given the title of Right Reverend Monsignor by Pope Paul VI in 1966.

Msgr. Shannon has been associated with Nazareth College nearly all of his priestly career. He retired in 1982 with the title of full professor emeritus.

He attended the diocesan seminaries and Canisius College, University of Ottawa and McMaster University in Hamilton, Ont.

He was first assigned to Sacred Heart Cathedral, but three years later was named to Nazareth College and has been there ever since.

Among his many scholarly and religious associations, Msgr. Shannon has listed that he has served as chairman of the diocesan Liturgy Commission, member of the diocesan Confirmation Task Force, member of the American Association of University Professors, and member of the College Theology Society.

He is widely known as an author and editor. Msgr Shannon now serves as chaplain to the motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Father Ventura is also a Rochester native and attended Holy Apostles School and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

The pastor, since 1980, of Holy Ghost Church on Coldwater Road, was first assigned to Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church where he remained 12 years.

In 1956, he was appointed administrator of St. Lucy's Church. Five years later he returned to Mount Carmel, but as pastor.

In 1971, he was assigned as pastor of St. Francis de Sales Church in Geneva and remained there for a decade until his present pastorate.

He has been hailed for his understanding of inner-city problems and issues, and once served as chairman of the Rochester Housing authority.

# Father Erb Notes 50th

**Techny, Ill.** -- Father Charles Erb, SVD, a Rochester, N.Y., celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a missionary priest in the Society of the Divine Word May 28. He will concelebrate a Mass of thanksgiving June 25 at the Divine Word Chapel here, together with six classmates, all Divine Word missionaries.

Father Erb began his studies for the priesthood at Sacred Heart Mission Seminary in Girard, Penn., after completing elementary school at Holy Family School in Rochester. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1933 at St. Gabriel's Seminary near Vienna, Austria, where he studied theology.

Prior to his first mission appointment to Ghana in 1947, he taught at Divine Word seminaries in Epworth, Iowa, East Troy, Wis., and here. He also served as an Army chaplain for four years in Alaska, the Aleutian Islands, France, Germany and Austria. He was discharged a major in 1946 and awarded the Bronze Star.

After studying at Harvard University and the University of London, England, Father Erb went to Ghana where he taught at Mt. Mary Teachers Training College in Somanya from 1947 to 1946. He organized Catholic Action clubs

FATHER ERB

in the Accra diocese and was director of the Catholic Press Bureau there. He helped organize Ghana's first national Eucharistic Congress in 1951.

Reassigned to the U.S. in 1956, he did vocational work for two years before a news service assignment in Rome. In 1960, he returned to Ghana to establish a SVD mission in the Yendi District. Before being named executive director of the Department of Social Communications and establishing his office in Accra, Father Erb was director of St. Martin's Institute, a school for catechists in Yendi, and was vicar delegate for the Yendi District. He is still active as a hospital chaplain and pastor in Accra.

## Bunche Fund Honors Fallon

Walter A. Fallon, chairman and chief executive officer of Eastman Kodak Co. was given the first annual Humanitarian Award of the Ralph Bunche Scholarship Fund's Board of Directors. Fallon was honored for furthering the educational opportunities of Rochester area youths.

The announcement was made at a dinner marking the 35th anniversary of the fund's inception. Kodak has been one of the largest contributors to the fund over the years, according to Tessa Martin, co-chairperson of the Friends of Ralph Bunch Scholarship Fund.

The fund is designed to provide college scholarships to financially disadvantaged graduates of Monroe County high schools. In 1982, more than 1,200 students were awarded about $430,000 through the fund.

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