

Father Elmer McNamara Feted on 50th Jubilee

East Bloomfield — Father Elmer McNamara's parishioners of 16 years feted him on his 50th anniversary of ordination in several instances recently.

The priest was presented with a surprise reception and a burse to help finance a pilgrimage to Rome.

On his return, Father McNamara celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving, which was followed by a reception in the parish hall.

In addition members of the parish youth group provided music for a special Mass and

presented their pastor with a new set of vestments.

Father McNamara last week laughingly acknowledged that it was all more than he had ever anticipated, and publicly expressed his gratitude.

Father McNamara was ordained in Rome, Dec. 5, 1933 by Cardinal Marchetti-Selvaggiani.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel F. McNamara was born April 21, 1909 in Montezuma. He attended Montezuma elementary school, Port Byron High School, St.

Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, and the North American College in Rome.

He earned a doctorate in Sacred Theology from Rome's Gregorian University, and a licentiate in Sacred Scripture from Rome's Pontifical Biblical Institute.

Following his ordination, Father McNamara remained in the Holy City for four years completing his degrees and returned to the U.S. in 1938 taking up the post of professor of Sacred Scripture at St. Bernard's Seminary.



FATHER McNAMARA (1947 photo)

Father McNamara remained in that post until 1967.

During that time he taught hundreds of future priests. In addition, he widened his audience through the Courier-Journal, addressing questions of historical details in the life of Jesus, and publicly debated Scripture questions.

Father McNamara is also a recognized authority in Latin, Greek and Hebrew.

In 1967 he was named pastor of the dual parish of the Bloomfields: St. Bridget's in East Bloomfield, and St. Joseph's in West Bloomfield.

Christmas in Church

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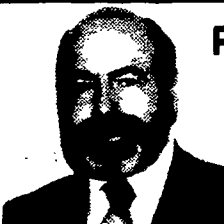
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FRANKLIN GRANATA

Ecumenical Freeze Group Launches Peace Covenant Linking Prayer and Study

Cohocton — Twelve members of the ecumenical People United for a Nuclear Freeze have made a covenant to study and to pray over the question of peacemaking for two hours a month for the next 10 months.

The group of clergy and laity from Perkinsville, Wayland and Cohocton is chaired by Wayne Hunt.

According to Father Eugene Sweeney, pastor of St. Pius V Parish here and a

member of the organization, the covenanting arose during the group's third annual Peacemakers Meeting.

The covenant form reads:

"Believing that God is moving in the events of these days to lead us closer to His design for a peaceful world, believing the deeper spiritual understanding and growth in the area of peacemaking can come from meeting together regularly for discussion and prayer, I hereby covenant

with God and others to commit two hours per month for ten months in 1984 to do this on the fourth Sunday of each month."

The group is one of the oldest in the area.

Last month it sent a religious Christmas card to Soviet premier Yuri Andropov, and a message to President Reagan saying that it would pray collectively and individually that he would be open to God's Spirit as it directs him to be a peacemaker.



Serviceman Returns Home

Marine Cpl. Michael Zawacki, 21, son of Stan and Ronnie Zawacki of Webster, gets a big hug upon his return home from serving eight months in Beirut, Lebanon. The elder Zawacki is a permanent deacon in the diocese, working in chaplaincy services.

American Nun Killed in Peru

Washington (NC) — One American nun was killed and another was injured Dec. 14 during an attempted prison escape in Lima, Peru, said Cindy Fox, a State Department spokeswoman.

Columban Sister Joan Mary Sawyer, a U.S. citizen born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, was killed after she and three other American nuns involved in prison ministry were taken hostage by inmates, Ms. Fox said.

Ms. Fox said Sister Sawyer and seven prisoners were killed when police began shooting at the vehicle the prisoners and hostages were using to leave the prison.

The wounded nun, Marist Sister Theresa J. Pasterczyk from Dracut, Mass., was released from a hospital after a bullet was removed from her arm, Ms. Fox said.

The two other Americans taken hostage were Marist Sister Mary Ellen Conway

from Needham, Mass., and Marist Sister Anna Maizolo from Michigan, said Sister Terese LaPointe, acting Marist provincial of the North American region. The Marist nuns taken hostage are members of the North American region.

Ms. Fox gave the following account of the attempted escape. Several prisoners at Lima's Lurigancho Prison took the four American nuns and two Peruvian women hostage, demanding their own release. The prisoners released Sister Maizolo and told her to take their demands to the Peruvian authorities and to the U.S. embassy.

Peruvian authorities provided the prisoners and hostages with a vehicle, Ms. Fox said. As the vehicle was leaving it was fired on by police and Sister Sawyer and seven prisoners were killed, she added.

Pastoral Top Story of Year

Washington — For the second consecutive year, the U.S. bishops' pastoral on war and peace was chosen as the top story of the year in NC News' annual poll of editors. Pope John Paul II was the leading newsmaker, as he has been every year since his election in 1978. Cardinal Joseph Bernardin of Chicago, chairman of the bishops' committee which prepared the war and peace pastoral, was the second-highest newsmaker, as in 1982. The new Code of Canon Law which took effect Nov. 27 was ranked the second-highest story, followed closely by tensions between the Vatican and the U.S. church.

HE TOUCHES ALL HEARTS WITH HIS ETERNAL LOVE...



WE THANK YOU ... IN THE NAME OF OUR MISSIONARIES AND THE PEOPLE OF GOD THEY SERVE IN EVERY AREA OF LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA, THE SOUTH PACIFIC AND ASIA ... FOR HELPING US TOUCH THE WORLD WITH GOD'S ETERNAL LOVE DURING THE PAST YEAR.

WE PRAY THAT CHRIST WILL BE THE REAL LIGHT, JOY AND PEACE OF YOUR LIFE NOW AND THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR!

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