



Msgr. McAniff relaxes for one of the last photographs taken of him.



Msgr. McAniff, center, vested as protonotary apostolic, an appointments which allowed him to pontificate at Mass four times a year.

Msgr. McAniff

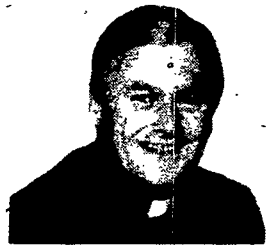
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He was ordained in Rome Dec. 5, 1933 by Cardinal Francis Marchetti-Selvaggiani; but he remained in Rome until 1938 completing his studies. He took a doctorate in theology from the Gregorian University, a licentiate in canon law from the Pontifical Institute of

Civil and Canon Law, and did additional studies at the Vatican's marriage tribunal and with other bureaus. After temporary assignments at St. Francis Xavier Church and as chaplain at St. Ann's Home, he was appointed vice chancellor for the diocese and chaplain to Sacred Heart Academy in

1939, and became chancellor in 1947. He served as vicar general from 1953 to 1966 with the late Bishop James E. Kearney, while also serving as pastor of Old St. Mary's 1949 to 1980, the longest pastorate in the 150-year history of the parish. In addition, Msgr. McAniff served as a diocesan trustee, a diocesan consultant, a pro-synodal judge on the diocesan tribunal and as a member of the boards of directors of several diocesan institutions.

Bennett, pastor of St. Agnes Church in Avon, recently said of him, "He was very sensitive; despite the fact that he held many positions of authority in the Church, he was always sensitive to people and how they would be affected. He did not decide spontaneously, but liked to think things over. In counseling too, people felt confidence that he was leading them in the right direction."

Fr. Louis J. Hohman



The Open Window

Councils Require Prayer

Dear Father Hohman:
You said that the third cause of the failure of parish councils is the lack of prayer. As far as I know, all parish councils do pray before meetings and most of them have an occasional Mass or day of recollection. Could you explain what you mean?
It is true that almost all parish councils do say prayers before meetings. (Although I heard of one council which had a proposal before it to the effect that prayer before meetings should be dispensed with.)
The point, however, is not whether councils say prayers before meetings, rather the question is whether council members are prayerful people in communion with the Holy Spirit.
The way I see parish councils is as unique Christian groups so centered in Christ and so in touch with Him that the rhythm of their work is determined by that.
Let me try to set this up logically. A parish council should be an instrument of shared leadership in a Christian community which has responsibility for carrying out the mission of Jesus Christ in this particular time and place. As we have said before, the mission of Christ is seen in his office of priest (bring the world to God the Father and bring God to the world.) prophet or herald (be a

manifestation of God's Word, incarnated and spoken) and servant king (bring the saving power of Jesus to bear on the needy of this world.)
The work of the Council is to determine what direction that mission should take in this concrete situation. Central to that is determining the will of God for this work or discerning his inspirations. To do this effectively, the council must be in touch with God and listen to his voice. That means that individually and collectively, members of the council must be listening for God to speak. In my opinion, the prayer of listening to the words of the Scriptures is the touchstone to bringing God's will to bear on our deliberations.
One way to keep the Scripture at the center of our prayer is to use the official Liturgy of the Hours, or the Prayer of Christians, as it is sometimes called. It needs to be used in a way that allows for listening to God. Rapid and continuous recitation will be worth little. Notable pauses, time for reflection and time for a sharing of the reflection is very important.
One of the pitfalls to this way of praying is the powerful feeling we have before a meeting that we want to get to the business at hand. Praying then seems to be something of a nuisance and the temptation to shorten it is a mighty one.
I might add, it is also a

He was given the title of Very Reverend Monsignor by Pope Pius XII in 1947, and the title of Right Reverend Monsignor in 1952. A further papal honor was given him in 1956 when Pope Pius chose him as a Protonotary Apostolic, with the privilege of pontificating at Mass four times a year. A long-time friend and associate, Father Charles

"For a priest so involved in administration," Father Benett said, "he was able to develop a very deep personal spiritual life. He made a holy hour every afternoon. The breviary, spiritual reading and the rosary were a daily part of his life."
A few weeks ago, Msgr. McAniff was feted on the 50th anniversary of his ordination. At that time, Bishop Clark said, "Fidelity and love for the Church, intelligence and wit are

A Special Tribute

Following is the text of a get-well card sent to Msgr. McAniff during his last illness from a family in Avon. It was provided by Father Bennett.
Dear Msgr. McAniff,
We have your picture taped to our refrigerator. It is not the most elegant place, but from early morning until very late at night there is always someone encountering your peaceful smile. Our refrigerator, as in most homes, is a very popular place.
You are always in our prayers, and we really don't need a picture to remind us. You have been a very important part of our spiritual growth, and we are most thankful.
Add your special smile and we feel loved!
Your picture represents the Church, dedicated service and love, really and truly. What a privilege to know and love you!

qualities of spirit I think of first when I remember Msgr. McAniff during these moments. His service to the Diocese of Rochester and St. Mary's Parish during 50 years of priesthood are a gift to you and to me."
Msgr. McAniff is survived

by his sister and brother-in-law, Julia and Francis Dollard of Rochester; a sister-in-law, Mrs. Bernard (Marcella) McAniff; and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews

Fr. Szczepanski

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baptized children whom he has later confirmed and administered their First Communion, congratulated them on their graduating from school and college and on getting a job, has married them, and then has baptized their own children. He has pastored some families through this same growth process all the way from their childhood to the arrival of grandchildren. He has laid a number to rest as their earthly journey ended.
"St. Casimir's has been privileged to have one man as pastor for so long. More than

longevity is involved; there is the depth of service that is required of a priest. And such things as compassion and affection and fatherly guidance and counsel."
Father Szczepanski was born May 28, 1900 in Antrim, Pa., the son of Joseph and Josephine Szczepanski. He attended St. Stanislaus Koska School in Rochester, Rochester Catholic School and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.
He was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Philip McDevitt of Harrisburg, Pa., at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester in June of 1925.

Rochester Bishop Edward Mooney named him pastor at St. Casimir's Dec. 13, 1933. Father Szczepanski cleared all parish debts at St. Casimir's while making many needed repairs and improvements to the parish facilities. When he retired in 1970, he was replaced by Father Henry T. Adamski, who is still the St. Casimir's pastor.

Boxing Called 'Savage'

Vatican City (NC) -- Boxing is "always brutal, and at times savage," said L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican newspaper, Dec. 16.
The editorial was written after a 25-year-old Italian boxer was hospitalized with a coma following his Dec. 10 collapse after winning his 10th straight fight.
"Is it right to continue to allow a sport whose fundamental aim is to inflict bodily harm?" the editorial asked.
"No sporting discipline and no type of show ought to be accepted by a civilized conscience if it puts human

life at risk," the editorial added.
Vatican Radio said that proponents of boxing argue that other sports, such as auto racing and mountain climbing, can be more dangerous.
"Nevertheless, boxing remains a violent sport, if not in the intentions of the contenders, certainly in its form of expression," it said.
"The ring is the scene of confrontations," it added, noting that although such confrontations are regulated, the confrontations still remain "brutal and at times savage."

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