

Number of Former Episcopal Priests Growing in Church

By Jerry Filteau
NC News Service
Father Larry D. Lossing, a former Episcopal priest scheduled to be ordained a Roman Catholic priest in St.

Louis Feb. 11, is the 12th priest to make that transition since the first Episcopal priest was ordained under the special U.S. program in 1982. Two weeks earlier Father

Richard R. Cipolla, ordained in Bridgeport, Conn., by Bishop Walter W. Curtis of Bridgeport, was the 11th. All but one of the 12 are married.

Father James Parker, who was the first to be ordained and who now works full time on the program itself, said that another 70 former Episcopal priests are on the waiting list, having made at least their initial application to become Catholic priests.

Twenty of these, according to Father Parker, have "all their papers together and in Rome or ready to go." Each case must be individually approved by the Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

Father Lossing, originally a priest of the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida, was to be ordained by Bishop Thomas J. Grady of Orlando, Fla., as a priest of the Orlando Diocese. He will continue to work, however, at the Pope John XXIII Medical-Moral Research and Education Center in St. Louis, where he has been communications director for the past year.

He and his wife Eileen, and their three children — David, 24, Laura, 21, and Michael, 16 — were received into the Catholic Church in Orlando on June 25, 1982, four days before Father Parker was ordained a Catholic priest.

In 1977 Fathers Lossing and Parker brought the original petition to Archbishop Jean Jadot, then apostolic delegate in the United States, which led three years later to the establishment of a special U.S. program for the admission to the Roman Catholic priesthood of former Episcopal priests who wished to reunite with Rome.

Father Parker is a priest of the Diocese of Charleston, S.C., but is on leave from diocesan duties to serve as a special assistant to Archbishop Bernard F. Law, the Vatican delegate handling all applications under the program.

Archbishop Law has been bishop of Springfield-Cape Girardeau, Mo., but he was named archbishop of Boston in January and will be moving there in March.

Father Parker told NC News that Archbishop Law will remain the Vatican delegate, and the offices for the program will move to Boston with the archbishop. He said his original leave from the Charleston Diocese to assist Archbishop Law ends in May, but he is currently discussing with the diocese a possible one-year extension to give the program continuity during the transition.

Both Father Parker and Father Lossing described themselves as already Catholic in their faith before they sought to reunite with Rome.

"In the Anglo-Catholic movement of the Episcopal Church, the thrust has always been toward reunion with Rome. That's the underlying thing," said Father Lossing in an interview with the St. Louis Review, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Father Lossing said he was among Episcopal priests who viewed a "weakening" of moral and doctrinal positions in the U.S. Episcopal Church as diminishing its "Catholic identity." He cited acceptance of abortion, artificial contraception and the ordination of women as departures from Catholic belief.

Father Parker said that the

special U.S. program involves more than simply the exception which lets married Episcopal priests to become Catholic priests without requiring them to follow the Roman Catholic discipline of clerical celibacy. Some celibate Episcopal priests have also applied, he said, and one is ordained and working in a "Catholic parish of Anglican identity" in San Antonio, Texas.

The San Antonio parish and a similar one in Las Vegas, Nev., have been established under another aspect of the program which allows for such parishes to handle groups of Episcopalian who reunite with Rome. Those parishes are allowed to retain in their liturgy distinctive elements of the spiritual, liturgical and prayer traditions of the Anglican Church.

Father Parker said the pastors of those two churches are the only two of the 12 former Episcopal priests who have received parish assignments so far.

The Vatican requires a

separate permission for those ordained under the program to become pastors. But Father Parker said it is only a matter of the individual talents and situations of those who have been ordained so far, rather than a question of policy, that has prevented more from being assigned to

parishes. According to Father Parker, one of the recently ordained former Episcopal priests is a tenured professor at a medical college in Georgia. A second is vice president of Providence College, a Dominican college in Rhode Island.

The Word is 'Go' For Project SEED

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester has announced that Project SEED has been funded for 1984. Project SEED has been located at the Edgerton Recreation Center in Rochester for the past two years providing social and recreational activities to disabled adults.

William H. Privett, associate director of Catholic Charities, expressed appreciation to the fund granting agencies that have invested in Project SEED for 1984. Project SEED has received grants from the City of Rochester, Department of Recreation and Community Services, Office of Human Services Planning (\$27,884), the Rochester Area Foundation (\$5,000), the Daisy Marquis Jones Foundation (\$5,000), the Gleason Memorial Fund (\$5,000), and the Gannett Foundation (\$5,000). Gifts also were received from Computer Consoles, Inc., the Lawyer's Co-Operative, St. Joseph's Parish, Penfield, St. Mary's Parish, Scottsville, a private gift through the Diocese of Rochester, a gift from a program participant and the Diocese of Rochester Urban Ministry.

Privett went on to say that the local community, through gifts and grants, has come forward to continue this program which had been in jeopardy. Project SEED had been awarded the Rochester Center for Independent Living Annual Award for its efforts to promote the independence of disabled people. "We are very gratified that our hard work during the past two years has been noted," Privett said.

For further information about Project SEED, please

call Adele Carlson, Project SEED director, at 458-7994, or William Privett at 546-4894.

Fr. Paul J. Cuddy



On the Right Side

Reflections Of Kenya And Rome

A remarkable Archbishop J.J. McCarthy, and Holy Ghost Father, came to Rochester in 1964 for a Mission appeal at St. Louis parish in Pittsford. He was archbishop of Nairobi, capital of Kenya, E. Africa, and a man of vision. Looking forward to the needs of the well-educated clergy, he wanted to send native priests from Kenya to St. John Fisher College for education beyond their own archdiocesan Kenya seminary.

Arrangements were made with the Basilian Fathers to give a series of scholarships, and board and room was provided by the Basilians while they lived with that community, and the diocese provided that care when Bishop Hogan invited them to Becket Hall.

Many priests and laypersons assisted financially in this important apostolate. The student priests assisted at some Rochester parishes, which provided a stipend to help support them.

Eight priests and one layman have been graduated from Fisher, and three have become bishops: Raphael Ndirni, Nicodemus Kirima and Peter Kairo. Father Philip Sulumeti assisted Father John Reddington at St. Louis, Pittsford, and is now a Kenyan bishop.

Fathers Raphael and Peter both assisted Father Paul Wohlrab at Good Counsel while they were students.

In October 1982, I conducted a tour group to Kenya to see the animals in the reserves, elephants, giraffes, zebras, wildebeests, flamingo birds.

Through the late Father Joseph Reinhart we also saw some of the mission work. The first was at the Cathedral of Bishop Raphael in Nukuru, about 60 miles north west of Nairobi. As we were leaving, he said, "See if you can persuade Father Wohlrab to come visit us."

In January 1984, Father Heisel of Mother of Sorrows and I joined with Father Wohlrab to visit Bishops Raphael and Peter, and to see the work of the Church in Kenya. Mario and Ann DiMasi of Good Counsel parish joined us to meet with Kenyan Father Maurice Iwanga, whose postgraduate work was done at the University of Cork, Ireland, and who was ordained by the Bishop.

Our plan was to visit

Kenya — which is 5,000 miles from Rome. With some diffidence I wrote Rochesterian Father Kevin McKenna, who is studying Canon Law at the Gregorian University in Rome. "Students have enough to do without becoming agents for the traveling home guard, but could you arrange some place for us to stay?"

He provided wonderfully: the Casa Internazionale del Clero, a residence for 50 Vatican clerics, with 40 other rooms for transients. It has a fine chapel and is only a 20 minute walk to St. Peter's. For the DiMasis, the cozy Casa Santa Birgitta.

At 8 a.m., on Tuesday, Jan. 17, we arrived in Rome via Alitalia, and waiting for us was smiling Father McKenna with "Georgio," who works at the students' residence, Casa Santa Maria dell'Umilta, and does occasional taxi moonlighting.

This report will be mostly about the Church in Kenya, but briefly our Roman stay included dinner with Fathers McKenna, William Laird — a fellow Auburnian and a man of capacious knowledge and piquant verbalizations — and a vibrant seminarian, the English lawyer, Deacon Alexander Bradshaw, who is completing his studies in theology and Scripture at the North American College. He spent two months in the boondocks in Kenya under Bishop Kirima, and after two strenuous months avers that he has no ambition to be a missionary in Kenya.

We five travellers went to the Wednesday audience of Pope John Paul II, who welcomed all in many languages. An Italian youngster, about 10, was brought to him especially since he had been kidnapped and returned. The pope gave him a big hug and a blessing.

At the audience, Father Stephen Woznesck of Doylestown Shrine in Pennsylvania, and a friend of Father Andy Grzela of St. Stanislaus, joined us. He had been to Poland and described the terrible shortages of food and clothing — and about everything. A marvelous circus act concluded the audience.

The pope circulated among the people afterward. He looks well, but is set for a 10-day trip to Canada in September, and he is going to Korea before that, and is studying Korea so he can celebrate Mass and speak to the people in the Korean language. What a man! What a pope! What a blessing that we have had.

Business in Diocese



DEMARIA

Attorney Joseph G. DeMaria, a graduate of Aquinas Institute, St. Bonaventure University and Fordham Law School, has announced the relocation of his offices to 155 E. Broad St. DeMaria, past president of both the Catholic Inter-racial Council and the St. Thomas More Lawyers Guild is also a former assistant District Attorney of Monroe County. He and his wife Jacqueline have six children, the eldest of whom is a practicing attorney in New York City.



Dr., Mrs. Francati

Dr. and Mrs. Aldo Francati of Pittsford have been named consultants to Premier Travel Service. Extensive travelers, they will guide group tours to various destinations. Dr. Francati is past president of the Monroe County Dental Association. Mrs. Francati is a member of the Seton Group of St. Mary's Hospital. The couple are members of St. Louis Parish, Pittsford.

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THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



EDWIN SULEWSKI
FUNERAL DIRECTOR

How can counseling help the grieving?
When you are grieving professional counseling can help to clarify and relieve feelings that you may have about the deceased or about the uncertain future that the death of a loved one has created. Learning how to live with tension, manage unpleasant feelings and look forward to the future are some goals for good counseling. Sometimes there are other difficulties of a longstanding nature such as excessive reliance on alcohol, excessive dependence on the deceased, or poor interpersonal relationships that also can be effectively managed during grief counseling. Good counseling is best provided by professionals who have training in grief and who are knowledgeable about the feelings and stresses of the grief process. Call the local Mental Health Association if you wish further assistance in this crucial matter.

SCHAUMAN FUNERAL HOME
2100 St. Paul St. HOME 342-3400