

Diocese Celebrates Priests' Anniversaries

The Diocese of Rochester is celebrating the anniversaries of ordination for several priests this year.

Noting their 25th anniversaries are Fathers Gerald J. Appelby, William M. Barrett, Paul Brennan, Charles Curran, John D. Dillon, Paul J. Freemesser, George E. Gauthier, Richard M. Mattie, Paul J. McCabe, Gerald J. McMahon, Thomas J. O'Keefe and Anthony J. Valente.

In addition, the following priests are observing half a century in the priesthood: Msgr. Joseph A. Cirrincione, Father Gerald C. Kelly, Father William D. Tobin, Father William Lammers, Father Bernard Newcomb and Father Elmer McNamara.

The priests were all honored recently at a special Mass, celebrated in Sacred Heart Church in Auburn, and presided over by Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

Msgr. Cirrincione is perhaps best known for his apostolate of the radio Family Rosary for Peace, and for his promotion of the message of Fatima.

Ordained in 1934 by Archbishop Edward Mooney at the old St. Patrick's Cathedral, he first served as assistant pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church. A year later, he was named administrator of the parish, and, in 1937 its pastor.

He remained in that post for 40 years.

He was named a papal chamberlain with the title of Very Reverend Monsignor by Pope Paul VI. The announcement was made in 1966; and Msgr. Cirrincione was invested with the official robes during a broadcast of the Family Rosary for Peace.

As pastor, Msgr. Cirrincione supervised the construction of a Boys' Center, installed a new organ, purchased a double house on Whitney Street and established a Girls' Center on Orange Street, among several plant projects.

In 1948 he inaugurated a novena in honor of Our Lady of Fatima, and began weekly talks on Fatima over WSAY. Also that year, he directed the first Holy Hour of the Women's Eucharistic League, made his first pilgrimage to Fatima and Rome and established a chapter of the Third Order of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

He launched the Family Rosary for Peace in 1950. It is estimated that in the several cities broadcasting the program, he garners a listening audience of 100,000.

Father Kelly, who helps at St. Mary's Church in Canandaigua, retired in 1973 as chaplain of the Veterans Medical Center in Canandaigua.

Also ordained in 1934 by Archbishop Mooney at the old St. Patrick's Cathedral, Father Kelly was first assigned to Immaculate Conception Church in Ithaca where he served four years.

He was named to Our Lady of Good Counsel in Rochester in 1938, remaining there until 1943 when he entered the U.S. Navy in which he served as chaplain until 1946.

In that year he was assigned to Holy Apostles Parish in Rochester.

Two years later, Father Kelly returned to serve hospitalized veterans at the Canandaigua facility.

Father Tobin, a native of Elmira, and now again residing in that city, was also ordained by Archbishop Mooney in 1934.

He was first assigned to St. Thomas the Apostle Church. He has served at St. Anthony, Rochester; St. Mary, Auburn; Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rochester; St. Patrick, Corning; St. Mary, Canandaigua; and St. Ignatius, Hornell.

In 1950, he was named pastor of the triple parish centered at St. Bernard, Scipio Center; and, in 1954 to the same post of the dual parish centered at St. Patrick, Cato.

In 1957 he returned to St. Patrick in Corning as administrator.

Father Tobin was named pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Elmira in 1965. He retired in 1978.

Father Lammers, who now resides in Ohio, the state of his birth, was ordained at the Pontifical Institute Josephinum College and Seminary in Worthington, Ohio. He spent nearly his entire priestly career serving the Diocese of Rochester.

He was first assigned to St. John the Evangelist in Greece. He also served at St. Andrew, Mt. Carmel and Holy Family parishes in Rochester. In 1946 he was named pastor of Holy Family in Auburn, where he served a year tending the needs of German prisoners.

In 1956, he was named pastor of Epiphany Church in Sodus and St. Rose of Lima Church in Sodus Point, a post he held eight years when he was named pastor of Holy Cross in Ovid and Sacred Heart in Romulus.

Father Lammers retired in 1978.

Father Newcomb, pastor emeritus of St. Cecilia Church, where he lives, was ordained by Archbishop Mooney in 1934. The Auburn native first served at St. Patrick in Corning and at St. Francis Assisi in Auburn.

In 1943, he enlisted as a chaplain in the U.S. Army and served in Africa.

In 1949, he was assigned to found St. Cecilia's Parish in Rochester, and was responsible for the construction of the complete parish plant.

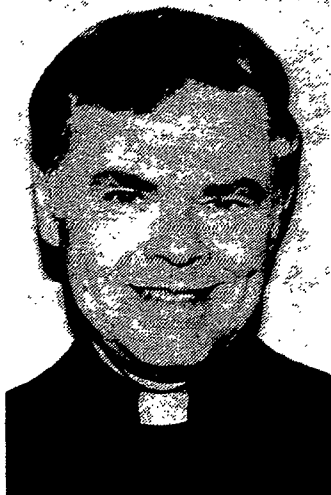
Father McNamara, soon to retire as pastor of the dual parish of the Bloomfields, was actually ordained in 1933, in Rome. But he is considered to be a member of the 1934 ordination class.

A recognized authority in Sacred Scripture, Latin, Greek and Hebrew, he spent most of his priestly life on the faculty of St. Bernard's Seminary.

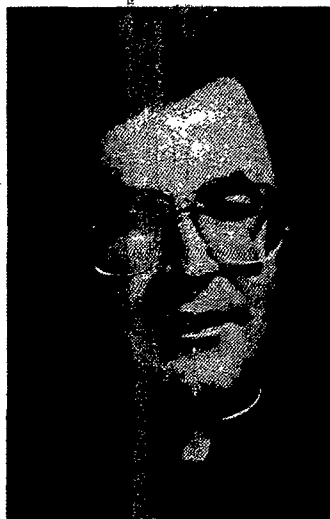
He was named pastor of St. Bridget Church in East Bloomfield and St. Joseph Church in West Bloomfield in 1967.

Father Appelby, founding pastor of the Church of the Transfiguration in Pittsford has served on both the parochial and the diocesan level.

He was first assigned to Sacred Heart Cathedral. In 1966 he was named chaplain at Rochester Institute of Technology. In 1977 he took on the post of co-director of Diocesan Campus Ministry, and, a year later, added the job of director of the diocesan Division of Special



FATHER APPELBY



FATHER BARRETT



FATHER BRENNAN



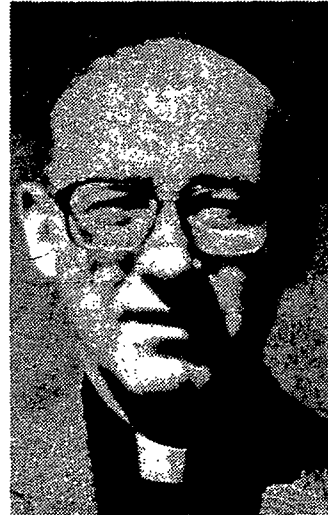
FATHER CURRAN



FATHER DILLON



FATHER FREEMESSER



FATHER GAUTHIER



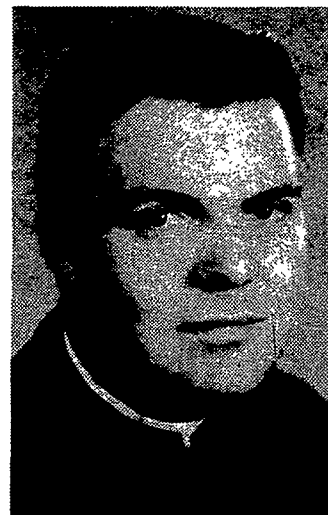
FATHER MATTIE



FATHER McCABE



FATHER McMAHON



FATHER O'KEEFE



FATHER VALENTE

Ministries. He was assigned to found Transfiguration in 1983.

Father Barrett, pastor, since 1979, of St. Monica's Church, has served the parishes of St. Mary in Elmira, St. Joseph in Wayland and St. Alphonsus in Auburn.

Between 1970 and his current post, he served as Catholic chaplain at Newark Developmental Center.

Father Brennan of the ministerial staff of Immaculate Conception Church in Rochester, was first assigned to St. Michael in Penn Yan and St. Andrew in Dundee.

In 1965 he was named to St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport; and two years later, he was assigned to Immaculate. In addition, the priest has served as chaplain to the Catholic Interracial Council of Rochester.

Father Curran, a theologian of international repute, and not a little controversy, has served on the faculty of Catholic University of America since 1965. He now holds the title of Professor of Moral Theology there.

On completion of degrees in 1961, he was named professor of moral theology and canon law at St. Bernard's Seminary, a post he held to 1964.

Father Dillon, associate at St. Mary in Waterloo, was first assigned to St. Thomas More. In 1964 he was assigned to St. Boniface Church, and, in 1969 to St. Mary of the Lake in Watkins Glen.

He was named director of the diocesan Spanish Apostolate in 1971, and as a member of the pastoral ministry team for the Brown Square Spanish community in 1976. He worked for a time on loan to the Diocese of Syracuse. He served associate pastorates at St. Michael in Rochester and St. Mary in Elmira, and returned as pastor of St. Michael in 1980, a post he relinquished in 1982.

Father Freemesser, pastor of St. Patrick in Cato and St. Thomas the Apostle in Red Creek, and chaplain, since 1964, of the U.S. Army Reserve, 98th Division, was first assigned to St. Alphonsus in Auburn. He also has served St. Anthony of Padua in Rochester and St. John the Evangelist on Humboldt Street.

In 1968 he was first assigned to the missionary team to St. Joseph the Worker in La Paz, Bolivia. He was again assigned that work in 1971. In 1970 he was posted to Immaculate Conception in Ithaca. For a year he was recovering from a bout of hepatitis at Walter Reed Hospital and Rochester General Hospital. In 1973 he was assigned to St. Francis Xavier in Rochester; and, in 1974 he began a six-year stint as pastor of St. Michael in Rochester.

Father Gauthier, pastor of St. Joseph Church in Cayuga since 1981, has served at St. Mary, Waterloo; St. Andrew, Rochester; Our Mother of Sorrows, Greece; St. Charles Borromeo, Elmira Heights; St. Patrick, Mt. Morris; St. Ann, Palmyra; St. Patrick, Seneca Falls and St. John, Clyde.

In addition, Father Gauthier served several years in Secular Mission/Human Development work, and, from 1971 to 1974 was a member of the board of directors of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

Father Mattie, chaplain with the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Conn., has served in this diocese at St. Agnes, Avon; St. Michael, Lyons; St. Augustine, Rochester; St. Mary, Rochester and St. Boniface, Rochester.

He was commissioned in the U.S. Navy in 1972 and has since served at Governors Island; Okinawa, Japan; Bethesda, Md.; Keflavik, Iceland; and San Diego, Calif.

Father McCabe, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Elmira, has served at St. John the Evangelist on Humboldt Street, St. Monica, and Corpus Christi in Rochester. He also has served as chaplain at Notre Dame High School in Elmira.

In 1973, he was named co-pastor of St. Augustine in Rochester, and to his present post in 1978.

Father McMahon, pastor of St. Patrick in Moravia, has served at St. Mary of the Lake, Ontario; Our Lady of Mercy, Greece; St. Anthony, Rochester; St. Mary, Corning and Corpus Christi, Rochester.

He was name pastor in Moravia in 1976.

Father O'Keefe was feted by his parishioners at Sacred Heart in Auburn on Sunday. He has served at St. Mary, Dansville; St. Joseph, Penfield; St. Francis DeSales, Geneva; and St. James and Holy Rosary, Rochester.

He was named pastor of Sacred Heart in 1982.

Father Valente, a member of the chaplains team at the University of Rochester Medical Center Strong Memorial Hospital, has served at St. Francis DeSales, Geneva; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Rochester; St. Ambrose, Rochester; and St. Mary, Auburn.

Father Valente also served as chaplain at Our Lady of Mercy High School. In 1975 he was named co-pastor of St. Michael in Rochester. In 1980, he was named pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church. He has been in his present post since last year.