

Jubilee Mass marks anniversaries of 16 diocesan priests

The priests of the Diocese of Rochester gathered at St. Mary's Church in Rexville on Wednesday, May 21, to celebrate the annual jubilee Mass for 16 priests of their brethren who are celebrating their 50th and 25th anniversaries of ordination.

The Courier-Journal joins with all the people of the Diocese of Rochester in congratulating the members of the jubilarian classes of 1936 and 1961, and in thanking them for their many years of service.

The seven priests celebrating their 50th jubilees are:

Father Austin B. Hanna was born November 11, 1908, in Rochester, the son of Frank M. and Margaret Lonergan Hanna. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 1936.

Father Hanna is a graduate of Rochester's West High School, and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

His first appointment was as assistant pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Rochester, where he served for one year. In 1937, he was appointed assistant pastor of St. Aloysius Parish, Auburn, where he served until becoming a U.S. Army chaplain in November of 1940. Upon discharge from the armed services, Father Hanna was appointed chaplain of St. Joseph's Villa in 1946. He continued in that post until his retirement on January 1, 1977.

Father Elmer W. Heindl was born in Rochester on June 14, 1919, to William C. and Florence Behr Heindl. He is a graduate of St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries and was ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 1936.

Father Heindl's first appointment was as assistant pastor of St. Mary's, Dansville. Successive appointments were to St. Alphonsus, Auburn; Holy Ghost, Rochester; and St. Andrew's, Rochester. In March of 1942, Father Heindl entered the U.S. Army as a chaplain. Upon discharge, he was appointed in 1948 as assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church, where he served until being reappointed assistant pastor of Holy Trinity Church, Webster, in 1951.

In 1958, Father Heindl was appointed pastor of St. Bernard's, Scipio Center; St. Hilary, Genoa; and St. Isaac Jogues, Flemming.

He served as pastor of St. Theodore from 1960-1961; St. Patrick's, Cato, from 1961-1972; and St. Joseph, Weedsport, from 1972 until his retirement on June 20, 1980.

Father John J. Maloney was born to John S. and Anna C. Hough Maloney on March 17, 1912, in Elmira. He was ordained on June 6, 1936.

Father Maloney's first appointment was as assistant pastor at Blessed Sacrament Church, where he served until entering the U.S. Army as a chaplain in 1942. Upon discharge, Father Maloney became assistant pastor of St. Patrick's, Elmira, in 1945. In 1947, he was appointed spiritual director of St. Bernard's Seminary.

Father Maloney was appointed assistant pastor of Immaculate Conception, Ithaca, from 1948 to 1954; St. Margaret Mary, Rochester, from 1954 to 1955; and Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira, from 1955 to 1959.

Father Maloney served as pastor of St. Mary's, Ontario, from 1959-1960. He became administrator of Immaculate Con-

ception in Ithaca in 1960, and assumed that pastorate in 1967.

In 1975, he was appointed pastor of St. Catherine's, Ithaca, where he served until his retirement on June 30, 1982.

Father Robert F. McNamara, diocesan archivist and regular contributor to the Courier-Journal, was born November 3, 1910, in Corning, to Thomas A. and Helen Dwyer McNamara. He is a graduate of Corning Free Academy, Georgetown University, Harvard University and the North American College of Rome, Italy.

Father McNamara earned his bachelor's degree at Georgetown in 1932, his master's degree at Harvard in 1933, and his STL at Gregorian University, Rome, in 1936.

Father McNamara was ordained in Rome on December 8, 1936.

His first appointment was as associate pastor of St. Francis Xavier, Rochester. In 1938, he joined the editorial staff of the Catholic Courier, becoming a professor of history at St. Bernard's Seminary later that year.

Father McNamara was named diocesan archivist in 1978. He continues in that position despite his retirement in 1981.

Father James F. O'Connell was born November 22, 1909, in New York City, the son of James J. and Anna Maloney. He was ordained on June 6, 1936.

Father O'Connell's first appointment was as assistant pastor of St. Patrick's Cathedral. In 1940, he became assistant pastor of St. Lucy's Parish, Rochester, where he served until 1953. Father O'Connell's first pastorate consisted of three years of service in Sodus Point, East Bay and Wolcott, between 1953 and 1956. He moved on to the pastorate of St. Mary of the Lake, Ontario in 1956, and to St. Mary's, Waterloo in 1959. He resigned the pastorate in 1973, becoming assistant pastor of St. Mary's, Bath in 1975.

Father O'Connell retired on June 25, 1980.

Father John Patrick O'Malley was born in Rochester on July 3, 1911, the son of Patrick J. and Jane Flaherty O'Malley. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 6, 1936.

Father O'Malley was first appointed as assistant pastor of St. Ann's, Hornell, where he served for seven years. From 1943 to 1946, he served as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy. Returning to Rochester, he was appointed assistant pastor of Holy Apostles, where he served from 1946 to 1947, then moving to Holy Cross Parish.

Father O'Malley remained at Holy Cross until 1958 when he became pastor of St. Mary's, Bath, a position he held until 1977, when he returned to Holy Cross as pastor. He retired on June 30, 1982.

Monsignor Arthur E. Ratigan was born February 18, 1911, in Syracuse to Arthur M. and Mary Anne Murphy Ratigan. He is a graduate of Aquinas Institute, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, and Catholic University of America. Monsignor Ratigan was ordained on June 6, 1936.

His first appointment was as assistant pastor of St. Francis Xavier, Rochester, where he served for three years. In 1939, he became assistant pastor of Corpus Christi Church, holding that position for six months, until he received dual appointments as chaplain of St. Mary's Boys' Home and as assistant director of Catholic Charities.

In 1942, Monsignor Ratigan moved to St. Joseph's Villa, which he served as chaplain. He was named director of Catholic Charities and the Columbus Civic Center in 1954, and was awarded the title of domestic prelate in 1956.

In 1963, Monsignor Ratigan became pastor of St. Ambrose Church, which he served until resigning the post in 1971.

In 1971, he became assistant pastor of Holy Family Parish, Auburn. Successive appointments were to Church of the Annunciation, 1972; and St. John's, Greece, 1973. Monsignor Ratigan retired on June 26, 1974.

The nine members of the class of 1961, celebrating their 25th jubilees, are:

Father Richard F. Brickler was born October 8, 1935, in Rochester, the son of Raymond F. and Jane V. Whelehan Brickler. He attended the Greece public schools and Mother of Sorrows School. He is a graduate of Aquinas Institute and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. Father Brickler was ordained June 3, 1961.

His first assignment was as assistant pastor of Corpus Christi Parish, where he served for three years. From 1964 to 1969, he was assigned to serve as chaplain at Monroe Community College. During 1969-70, he was a member of the faculty at Kings Preparatory School.

In 1970, he was appointed assistant pastor of Holy Family Church, where he served until being named secretary of the diocesan tribunal in 1974. He advanced to the post of vice officialis of the tribunal in 1976.

In 1983, Father Brickler was appointed pastor of St. Boniface Church, Rochester.

Father Thomas W. Burr was born September 24, 1935, in Corning, the son of John J. and Gertrude Dacey Burr. He attended St. Vincent's School and Northside High School, Corning. He is a graduate of St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries and was ordained on May 27, 1961.

Father Burr was first assigned as assistant pastor of St. Boniface Church, where he served until joining the faculty of St. Andrew's Seminary in 1964. In 1965, he was appointed assistant pastor of St. Rita's, Webster, where he served for five years. He held the position of assistant pastor at St. Andrew's and St. Ambrose for one year each in 1970-71.

In 1976, Father Burr was named pastor of St. Joachim, Canisteo, and St. Mary, Rexville.

Father Edward J. Dillon, chaplain of the Monroe County Jail, was born on January 19, 1936, in Macedon, the son of Matthew and Catherine O'Keefe Dillon. He attended the Macedon public schools and graduated from Palmyra-Macedon Central High School. After one year at St. John Fisher College, Father Dillon entered St. Andrew's Seminary. He is a graduate of St. Bernard's Seminary and of the North American College in Rome, Italy. He holds an STL degree from the Gregorian University of Rome in 1961; SSL from the Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome, 1963; and an STD from Gregorian University, 1965. Father Dillon was ordained on December 18, 1960.

After completing his studies in Rome, Father Dillon was appointed assistant pastor

of Rochester's Holy Ghost Parish in 1965 and also held the position of professor of biblical theology at Nazareth College.

From 1966 to 1968, he was professor of sacred scripture at St. Bernard's Seminary, moving in 1968 to the same post at John XXIII Seminary in Boston.

In 1982, Father Dillon was appointed assistant pastor of Holy Family Parish, Rochester, and in 1983, he moved to the same position at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rochester.

Father Dillon has served as chaplain of the county jail since 1984.

Father Eugene G. Emo was born March 14, 1935, in Rochester to George and Lelia Betts Emo. He is a graduate of St. Boniface School, and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. He was ordained to the priesthood on June 3, 1961.

The first assignment for Father Emo, who currently serves as assistant pastor of St. Francis de Sales, Geneva, was as assistant pastor of St. Patrick's, Owego. He remained in Owego until being appointed to St. Cecelia's, Rochester, in 1963. Successive appointments were to St. Mary's, Dansville, 1968 to 1973; St. Margaret Mary, Apalachin, 1973 to 1974; and St. Michael, Newark, 1974 to 1975.

In 1975, he became chaplain of St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell, a position he held until being named pastor of St. Mary's, Geneseo in June of 1982. He has been assistant pastor at St. Francis de Sales since November, 1982.

'Be yourselves as living stones, built thereon into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.'

1 Peter 2:4-5

Father Ronald E. Gaesser, pastor of St. Columba's Church, Caledonia, and St. Patrick, Mumford, was born on December 23, 1935, in Rochester, the son of Walter and Mildred Ernst Gaesser. He is a graduate of Our Lady of Good Counsel School, and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. Father Gaesser was ordained to the priesthood on June 3, 1961.

His first assignment was as associate pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. In 1967, he was reassigned to assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church, Auburn. Father Gaesser served as chaplain of campus ministry at Auburn Community College and Eisenhower College from 1970 to 1973, when he became administrator of St. Joseph's Church, Cayuga.

Father Gaesser has served as pastor of the Caledonia and Mumford parishes since 1981.

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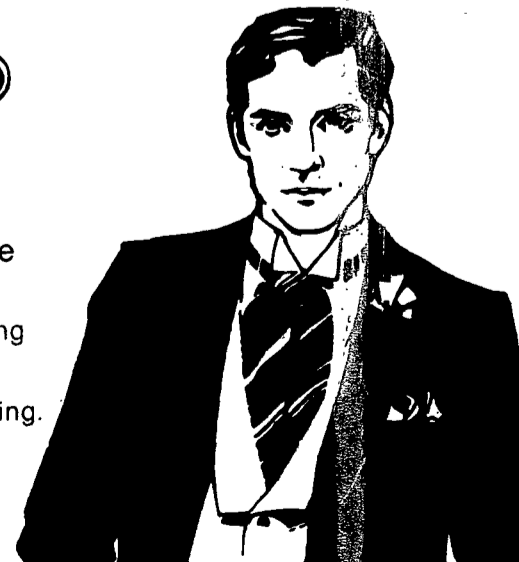
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