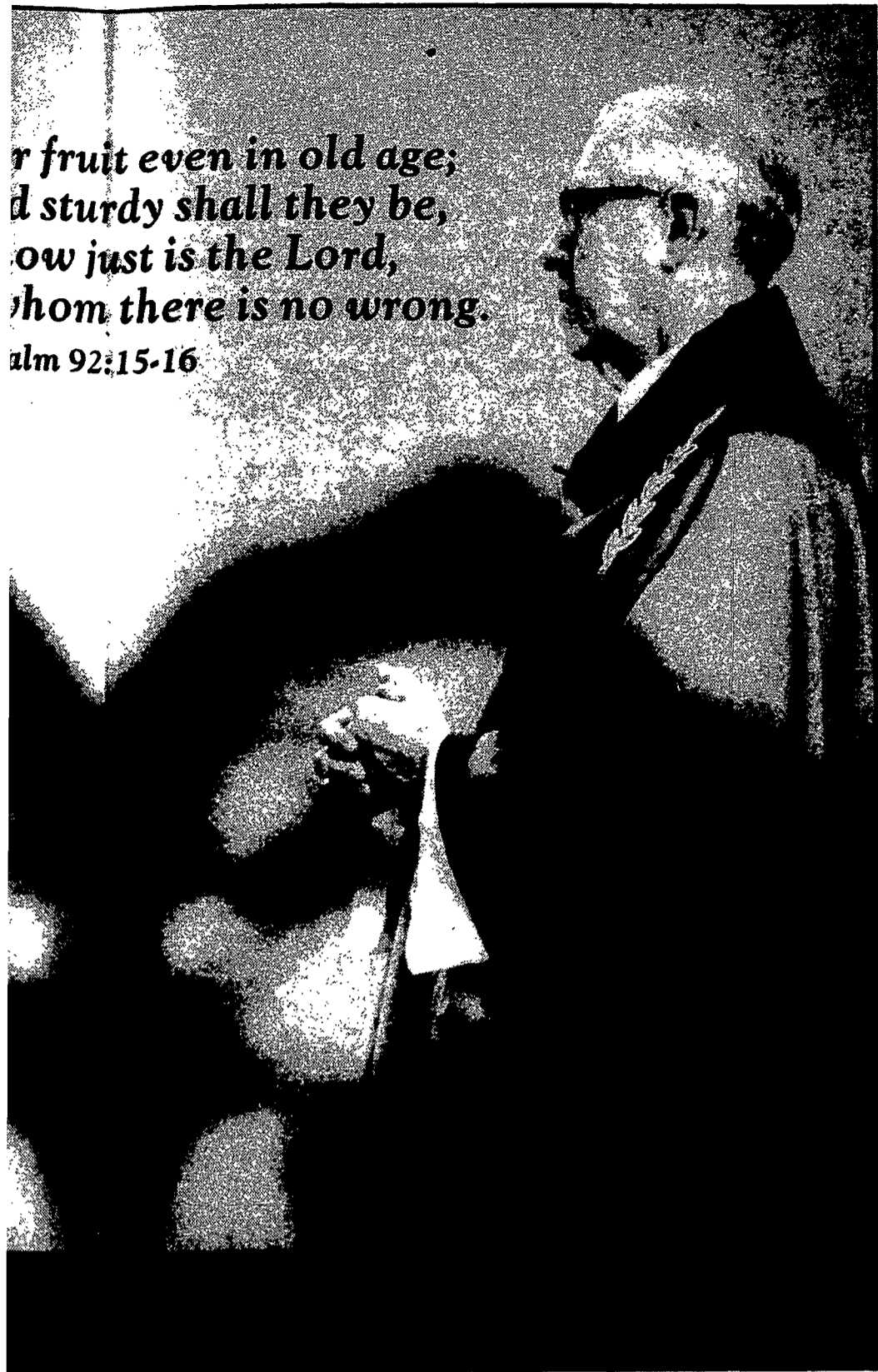


... fruit even in old age;
 ... sturdy shall they be,
 ... now just is the Lord,
 ... whom there is no wrong.
 Psalm 92:15-16

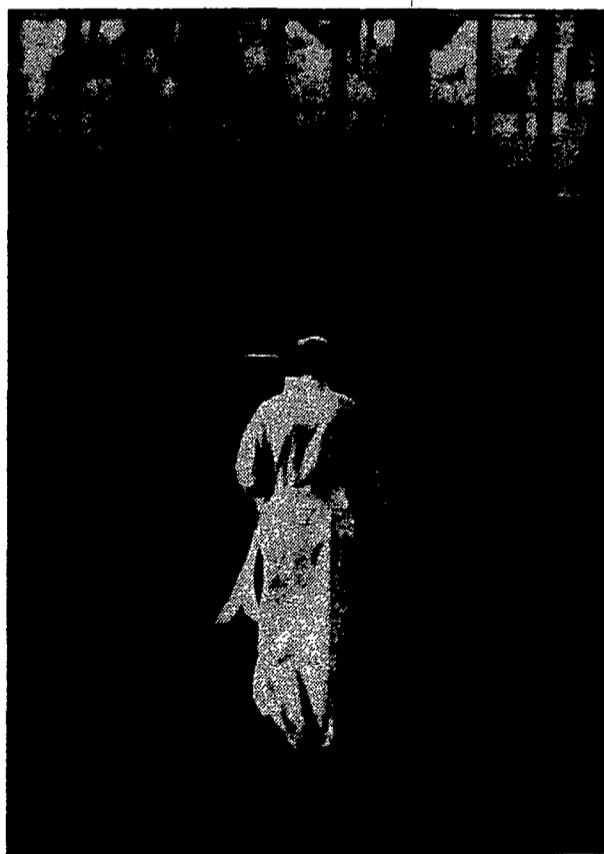


Bette G. Augustin/Staff photographer

Retirement from pastoral ministry, most — like 10-year retiree Father Raymond

... alienation, a lack of appreciation rendered in most trying times. ... down a rugged, persistent staying ... s are stunned, shell-shocked as it ... hers move with the changes." ... ho this year observed the 50th an ... rdination spoke about his view of ... "Retirement brings a sense of ... I am no longer involved in any ... ing process, so I can look with ... tivity at the problems of today's ... career is divided equally between ... days and afterward, so compari ... adily to mind. Attitudes that I en ... ary courses and parish life prior ... engendered an abiding loyalty to ... called then with pride, 'Holy ... titude was the coin of the realm. ... e council," he continued, "the ... s of the church cut deeply into my ... king. The vernacular liturgy, the ... ty — especially women — in ... and positions of authority, a ... e approach to morality, a notion ... all these elements brought a ... stly life to me.

... choose the priesthood again? By ... God I surely would," he con-



Father Helsel is chaplain of the Legion of Mary at Mother of Sorrows, says Mass at nursing homes, visits the sick, fills in for vacationing priests and enjoys traveling.

'Right' author speaks from experience

... of this month's ... features were ... by Father John ... stor emeritus of ... part Cathedral. ... Hayes has per ... pience with ... pics, having ... om pastoral ministry in 1984 and ... 1970 sabbatical at Exeter College



... of Oxford University in England. ... Since his retirement, Father Hayes — who studied English at Oxford and the University of Rochester — has written several articles for the *Catholic Courier*. He is also the author of historical reviews for two parishes: St. John the Evangelist on Rochester's Humbolt Street and St. Vincent DePaul in Corning, where he currently resides.

Sabbatical program presents chances to update and renew

By Father John S. Hayes
 Guest contributor

The education of priests has always been of prime importance to the bishops of Rochester beginning with Bernard J. McQuaid, who built St. Bernard's and St. Andrew's seminaries.

A new thrust developed in this area when, in the late-1970s, sabbatical programs were inaugurated to help priests update their theological studies, renew their prayer lives and, in general, seek refreshment from the daily burden of pastoral living.

Despite the many benefits it offers, this diocesan program has been misunderstood by people who regard sabbaticals as mere vacations for priests.

The Rochester sabbatical program states its purpose on the applications submitted by candidates: "This program is designed to provide an opportunity for personal reflection and growth through the priest's refreshed understanding of himself and of his ministry."

Judith Kollar, chairwoman for five years of the sabbatical committee, explained that the appeals for appointment to a sabbatical by stating his purpose in seeking it. Having cited the institutions he hopes to attend, the candidate is asked to explain how he proposes to deal with the components of his program: spiritual (a retreat at a designated center), intellectual (the study program) and recreational (travel, etc.).

The diocese pays for tuition and housing. Travel expenses are the responsibility of the candidate. Occasionally, but not always, the priest's parish supplements his expenses.

The diocese sets aside a fund of \$50,000 for sabbaticals each year. These funds come from the sale of St. Bernard's Seminary and are designated for this purpose. Administrative costs are paid from monies raised through the Thanks Giving Appeal.

A brief but representative survey of priests who have taken sabbaticals reveals a unanimity of opinion. Although selected for the diversity of locations and study styles in which they had been engaged, the priests surveyed invariably responded positively when asked, "Was the program helpful to you and your ministry?"

Father Albert L. Delmonte, pastor of St. Salome's in Rochester, attended the North American College in Rome for the spring term, 1990. The Institute for Continuing Theological Education directed his program dealing largely with theology and Scripture.

"For me, the main benefit is a new appreciation of and a new enthusiasm for the Sacred Scripture; not the course only, but especially our programmed trip to the Holy Land where the priest or Lord walked came alive for me — not just a map or a photograph," Father Delmonte remarked.

Asked how the sabbatical affected the people in his parish, Father Delmonte responded, "I would say primarily in my role as preacher and teacher. I am showing an enthusiasm in the pulpit about Rome and the Holy Land I never knew before. People tell me that.

"I would like to add a word about liturgy, too," he continued. "Ceremonies in Rome moved me deeply, especially when the Holy Father was present. He is a person filled with a prayerful spirit, so one could easily cut through the pomp and splendor and see a holy person praying. I learned a lot."

Father William J. Gordinier, pastor of St. Mary's in Geneseo, attended the Marianella Pastors Center in Dublin, Ireland, during the fall of 1989. Father John Quinn, pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Rochester, and Father William Barrett, pastor of Holy Cross Parish, Freeville, joined Father Gordinier in the same sabbatical study.

Their travel component was widely based. First, they drove across the country to California, and made a retreat at Auriesville, N.Y. Then they went to England, Scotland, Wales, and finally Ireland. During their off-schedule they traveled to the Canary Islands.

Redemptorist priests direct the Marianella Center, although many faculty lecturers hold chairs of theology, canon law and Scripture in Rome and belong to communities other than the Redemptorists. Among the topics Father Gordinier and his cohorts studied were history; Vatican II; such personal concerns as presiding, preaching, etc. Father Gordinier noted with enthusiasm that

before the sabbatical, "I dealt with my ministry in an isolated way. Afterward, I am free to share with people and priests my deepest concerns. The sense of isolation was gone. Through enrichment and renewal I can make a fresh start."

As for the effects on his people, Father Gordinier reported, "Many people tell me I am a different person in the pulpit and in my varied meetings with people."

Each priest brings to the sabbatical studies his own personal scholastic history. That history was extensive for Father Joseph Jankowiak, pastor of St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads, who has a doctorate in theology from the Gregorian University in Rome and was for years a professor at St. Bernard's Seminary.

A voracious reader and student, he hoped to do Scripture studies in the Holy Land, but precarious conditions there turned him to Berkeley, Calif., where he attended the School of Applied Theology in the spring term of 1990.

The 45 students were mostly priests and women religious. "The emphasis in my course was on spirituality, especially a mid-life redirection for people over 35," Father Jankowiak said. "Carl Jung in a Christian perspective was the base for our consideration."

As a result of his sabbatical, "I experienced a new sense of exhilaration in my personal and ministerial life. I did not know this before, so I found it very rewarding.

"In my first homily after returning," Father Jankowiak continued, "I tried to share my learning experience. The results affecting our parish were surprising. 'You are really different,' people said."

The St. Mary Our Mother pastor then directed a workshop dealing with his new-found values. Forty-seven people responded to his call to Celebrate Mid-life. "I never had a response like that," he said.

Lifestyle in Oakland was revealing for Father Jankowiak, who lived in an inner-city rectory during his studies. "Dire poverty and violence just around the corner. Street people everywhere. I learned to meet with the poor and their problems. The priests in the rectory were all of mixed, ethnic backgrounds — a total contrast with our own folks at home. A broadening experience as well," he pointed out.

Father Robert C. MacNamara, pastor of St. John of Rochester, Perinton, attended the Divinity School of Yale University in New Haven, Conn. His basic courses dealt with the theology of Karl Rahner and with the "Agape," a course focusing on what savants of all time had to say about love and community. During his stay at Yale during spring term, 1990, he also took a library course on theological works.

Father MacNamara said he was disappointed to have missed a course about St. Thomas More taught in a previous semester. Still he benefitted from Yale's renowned collections on More and read extensively about St. John Fisher, patron of the parish to which he was recently assigned.

Father MacNamara's classes had a curious composition because he was the only cleric in the whole group. He found the situation to be an enriching experience. "I left convinced after working with these young people that the church is going to be in competent hands judging from the potential for leadership that I observed at Yale," he remarked.

Transplanted from Corning to Fairport during his sabbatical, Father MacNamara emphasized that he and his people are in a state of transition. "Divine Providence sent me to St. John of Rochester," he said. "All I know now is a real awareness of a time of transition. If I have the ability to help those who find changes painful ... then I shall have served well."

...
 These observations indicate clearly that the sabbatical program is alive and well, performing a needed function of bringing a performance plus to the training of priests.

Just as doctors need to keep up their knowledge and skills, so, too, do priests stand in need of updating their training in the areas cited above.

"Decidedly successful," Judy Kollar remarked of the program she directs. All the priests consulted agreed.