

# 'Many experiences' mark retirees' pastorates

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

Father Richard J. Orlando laughed at the thought of describing his 25 years as pastor of St. Michael Church, 3 Holley St., Lyons.

"I think it's many things," the priest said, adding, "Many experiences."

On June 29, Father Orlando and three other diocesan pastors will retire, taking with them "many experiences."

Indeed, Father Orlando, Father Chester M. Klocek (pastor of Hilton's St. Leo Church, 167 Lake Ave., since 1968), Father Robert A. Meng (pastor of Rochester's Holy Rosary Parish, 414 Lexington Ave., since 1968), and Father Louis J. Hohman (pastor of Pittsford's St. Louis Parish, 60 S. Main St., since 1983) will take with them 187 years of combined ministry.

Those ministerial years have required some flexibility on the quartet's part.

Fathers Orlando and Klocek, for example, were both raised in Rochester — the former at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, the latter at St. Stanislaus Parish.

And both priests were assigned to city parishes before they became pastors. In addition to Auburn's St. Francis of Assisi Church, Father Orlando



Fr. Robert Meng



Fr. Chester Klocek



Fr. Richard Orlando



Fr. Louis John Hohman

served at St. Francis Xavier, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, St. Anthony, Holy Rosary and St. Helen, all in Rochester.

Father Klocek, meanwhile, served at Auburn's Holy Family Parish as well as at Holy Family, St. Stanislaus and St. Anne in Rochester.

Yet both members of 1947's ordination class have served as pastors of small-town parishes for the past 25 years.

The transition was not always easy, Father Orlando noted.

"It was quite a different world," he recalled. "It was quite an adjustment, but a pleasant one."

Also a Rochester native, Father Hohman likewise found himself serving in small-town parishes — albeit

two very different ones.

Father Hohman was named pastor of St. Vincent DePaul Parish in Churchville in 1972. He remained there until Bishop Matthew H. Clark appointed him pastor of St. Louis in 1983.

Those assignments followed years spent largely in academic settings. After serving two Rochester parishes — St. Helen and Blessed Sacrament — following his ordination in 1946, Father Hohman was named spiritual director at St. Andrew Seminary; chaplain at the Rochester Institute of Technology; and then spiritual director and rector at Becket Hall College Seminary.

He also wrote a regular column for this diocesan newspaper — then known as the *Courier-Journal* — for more than 20 years. He hosted a weekly radio program in Rochester as well.

Churchville was a typical small town, Father Hohman recalled. Parishioners includes farmers as well as

small business owners and workers.

The Pittsford parish, however, included far wealthier parishioners, "leaders of the wider community," Father Hohman noted.

The change, Father Hohman observed, required a "whole different approach to parish diplomacy." He added, however, "I really did love both of them."

Father Meng, on the other hand, found himself working for the past 25 years in an urban parish following a wide variety of assignments inside and outside of the United States after his 1945 ordination.

The Rochester native served parishes in East Rochester, Auburn, Rochester, Clifton Springs and Hornell before 1966. He then served for two years in the African nations of Zaire and Benin as a program director with Catholic Relief Services.

Although he enjoyed serving in Africa, Father Meng said he was also aware of the changes in the Catholic

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