



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Seniors trade tunes with AQ band



Clockwise from left, Christina Ormiston of Aquinas performs a solo on the alto sax while recreation therapist Christina Miller and St. Ann's Home resident Marie Nadeau dance to the music. Hazel Gianforti, a member of the St. Ann's Hand Bell Choir, also performed for the Aquinas band and fellow residents on Friday, June 4 at St. Ann's Home, 1500 Portland Ave., Rochester. Seven years ago the Hand Bell Choir was the first of its kind for Monroe County senior citizens. The Aquinas Jazz Band recently placed third in the North American Music festival in Virginia Beach.

Retirees

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as a result of the Second Vatican Council. "Things were changing so fast," he recalled.

He had already decided in 1968 to return to Rochester when he was appointed pastor of Holy Rosary Parish. He assumed the pastorate in September, 1968 — thus technically he will not complete 25 years at the helm.

Nevertheless, Father Meng has much to remember from those years.

A fire destroyed Holy Rosary Par-

ish's school building on Dec. 19, 1981. Parish and diocesan officials quickly arranged for the school staff and students to use Holy Apostles School on Austin Street. The students, Father Meng marvelled, "lost only three days of school."

The parish then built another school, which opened in 1984, and remains to this day.

Although they worked in much different settings — one small town and the other urban — both Fathers Orlando and Meng noted with sadness related trends they have seen in their respective churches during their pastorates.

"The (parish) population is decreasing," Father Orlando reported. "Mass attendance has fallen way down."

"There's been a general deterioration of the parish and the neighborhood,"

Father Meng acknowledged. "So many people are moving out."

The four pastors are also now facing the prospect of "moving out" of their longtime homes. Following retirement, Fathers Klocek and Meng are moving into private homes in Greece and East Rochester, respectively. Both will assist at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 4536 St. Paul Blvd.

Fathers Orlando and Hohman will move into church rectories in Rochester. Father Orlando will reside at St. Thomas More Parish, 2617 East Ave., while Father Hohman, who will live at St. John the Evangelist Parish on Humboldt Street, will seek engagements as a storyteller and public speaker on motivational and inspirational topics.

The four priests' respective parishes are marking their retirements in a number of ways.

Parishioners of St. Leo Church already held a May 23 dinner in honor of Father Klocek. In addition, the week of May 23-29 was "Father Chester Klocek Week" in Hilton. Another celebration is scheduled at the parish following the 11:30 a.m. Mass on June 27.

St. Michael's parishioners will hold small reception for Father Orlando following each of the Masses the weekend of June 26-27.

Father Hohman will be honored at a June 18 dinner at the Burgundy Basin and a 1 p.m. reception on June 27 in St. Louis School's hall.

And Father Meng's tenure at Holy Rosary will be recognized at a June 18 dinner inside Logan's Party House. In addition, a June 26 reception in his honor will take place in the parish school building following the Saturday evening Mass.

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