

Newcomer priests settle in at diocesan posts

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

For Father Walter Plominski and Father David Blowey, OFM Conv., their first assignments in the Rochester diocese were not to totally alien territories.

Father Peter Enyan-Boadu, on the other hand, is neither a native of this country nor a previous visitor to the Rochester area.

Yet the well-traveled Father Enyan-Boadu, who has served as a priest on three different continents, found little trouble adapting to city living in Rochester's Roman Catholic Community of the 19th Ward.

"On the outside, it seems like a quiet city compared to other cities I know of. But it has the basic everyday problems of metropolis, like crime," remarked the priest, who arrived at the 19th Ward cluster as a parochial vicar in October of 1992. The community comprises Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Augustine and St. Monica churches.

"Being in an inner-city parish, there are a lot of challenges, no doubt about that," added Father Enyan-Boadu. "Every day we have to renew ourselves to do our work in faith, love and peace."

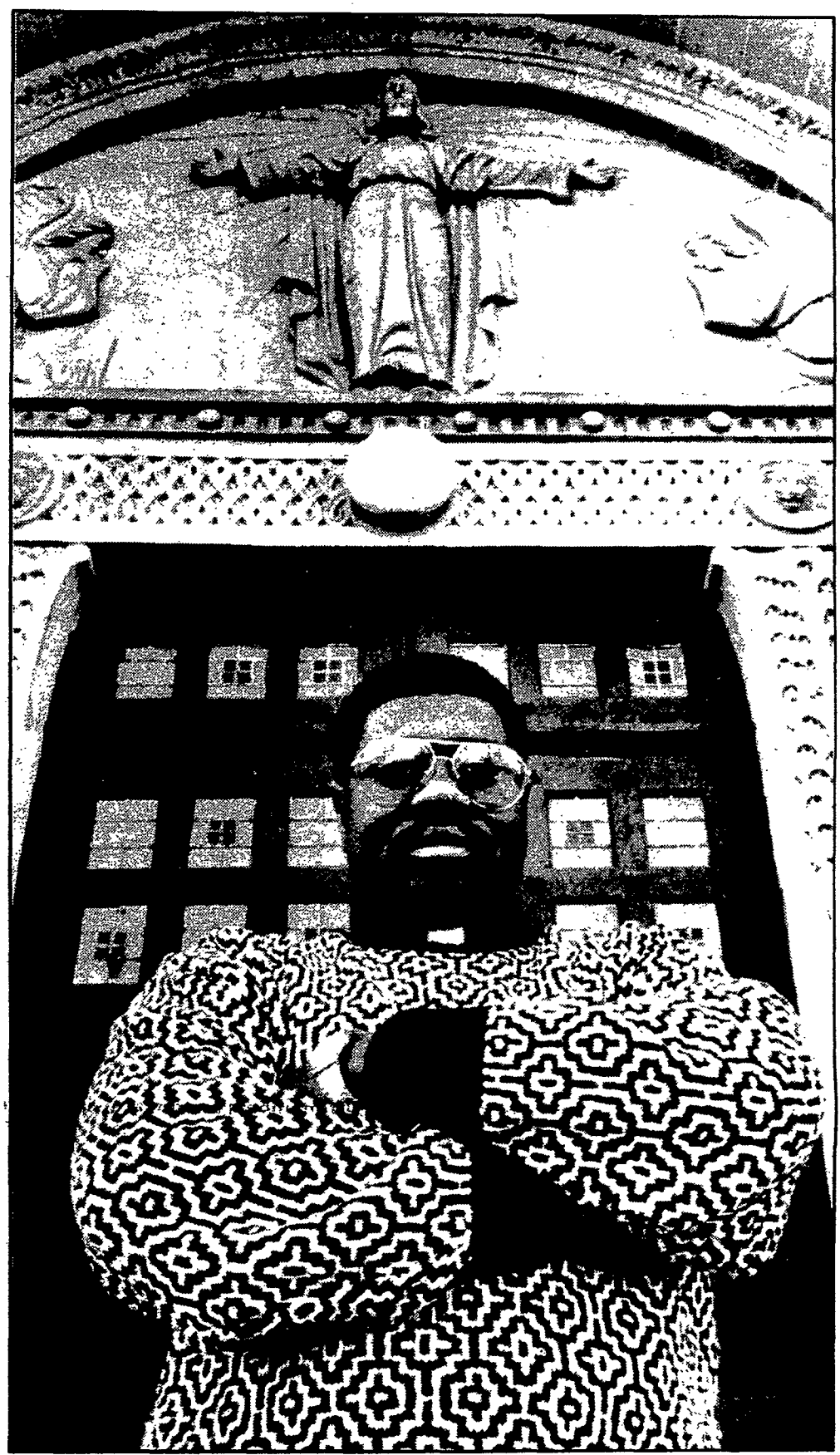
During his short time in Rochester, the Ghana native has worked feverishly toward bridging cultural gaps.

"The blacks and Hispanics — many a time, they feel uneasy in our church. I want to see that they feel welcome," Father Enyan-Boadu said. "To be able to get our brothers and sisters to come, you have to have a liturgy that appeals to their spiritual and emotional needs."

Father Enyan-Boadu has already made strides in this quest, having launched a Mass for Haitians which began in the parish last fall.

Father Plominski began his duties as parochial vicar in the Corning-Painted Post Roman Catholic Community in September of 1993. A native of the Scranton and Wilkes-Barre area in northern Pennsylvania, Father Plominski said he became aware of the Rochester diocese through reading issues of the *Catholic Courier* over the past five years while serving in the Scranton diocese.

"I liked what I was reading about. I knew there was a lot of creativity in this diocese," Father Plominski said. His cluster encompasses Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Painted Post, along with three Corning churches: St. Mary, St.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Father Peter Enyan-Boadu serves as parochial vicar for Rochester's Roman Catholic Community of the 19th Ward, which consists of Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Augustine and St. Monica churches.

Patrick and St. Vincent DePaul. Father Plominski has enjoyed his stay in the Corning-Painted Post region thus far.

"The people I have found to be very cordial and friendly. I've gotten a very positive reaction," he said. "There's a warmth here, (whereas) some places you can be living at for 10 years and still feel like a newcomer."

Father Blowey has served as parochial vicar at St. Hyacinth Church in Auburn since August of 1993, when he arrived from New Britain, Conn.

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Father Peter Enyan-Boadu

A native of Buffalo, Father Blowey noted that his adjustment process to the diocese has gone quite smoothly.

"Actually, there was no problem getting around in Auburn," he said. "It's a small enough city that I've gotten to know my way around by walking the streets."

On a humorous note, he added, "The only place I've gotten lost so far is the hospital. With its new expansion, they're been adding different wings."

Father Blowey, who belongs to the Franciscan Father — Minor Conventual order, anticipates that it won't be long before he's adjusting to another new environment. The priest explained that because he is currently working on his doctoral dissertation, he is assigned short-term duty to fill temporary vacancies.

"I'm kind of the cork," Father Blowey said with a laugh.

Pope gives guidelines for laity

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — While there is agreement that lay people should be involved in the church's mission, there is confusion on how to accomplish that goal, Pope John Paul II said.

Discussing the role of the laity in an ongoing series of talks at his weekly general audience, the pope said he could offer some guidelines, but putting them into action must be done at the local level.

In every parish, he said March 16, "the activity of the laity is necessary so that the apostolate of the pastor can reach its full effectiveness."

In the liturgy, religious education, pastoral and social services, lay men and women must cooperate closely with the pastor to ensure their activities are truly those of a community, he said.

Lay men and women must also show their awareness of belonging to a diocese by taking responsibility for promoting the teaching of their local

bishop, offering their expertise on administrative affairs and carrying out the diocese's catechetical, cultural and social projects, Pope John Paul said.

As members of the universal church, lay men and women must also do what they can, according to their personal circumstances, to bring the Gospel message to others, he said.

"All members of the church have the task and responsibility for an evangelization which extends to all nations and to all those who — whether they know it or not — need God," he said.

The pope said lay men and women must show special concern for their neighbors and co-workers "who, while being Christian by membership, are spiritually far away, agnostic or indifferent to the call of Christ."

The new evangelization to which the church is called, he said, is aimed at "the formation of mature church communities composed of convinced and knowledgeable Christians who persevere in faith and charity."

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