

Priests' support

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Corning and Ithaca before assuming the pastorate in Honeoye.

Father Hogan also served from 1966 to 1969 as secretary to then-Bishop of Rochester Fulton J. Sheen, whom, ironically, his brother would succeed.

"That was a great honor and privilege to work with Bishop Sheen," Father Hogan recalled. "He had great vision."

Father Endres, too, had contact with Bishop Sheen. The bishop ordained him in 1969. His first taste of what it was like to be a priest, however, came when he was an altar server at St. Salome's Church in Rochester.

"I remember as a small boy playing priest with one of the neighbor boys," Father Endres said. "He was learning to be an altar boy — I had been an altar boy — so I played the priest to help him."

When a teacher suggested he go into the high school program at St. Andrew's High Seminary, Father Endres thought it a good idea because he could pursue his high school diploma while exploring the possibility of being a priest, but not have to commit to it yet.

Over the years in the seminary, and while watching the social unrest of the 1960s, Father Endres grew in his conviction that he wanted to be a priest — and that he had something to offer.

"I think my ideal was to offer people Catholic, Christian principles in an age that was going through troubles," Father Endres observed. "I thought I could contribute something to being some stability, some hope through the teachings of Jesus Christ."

Following ordination, Father Endres brought that vision with him to parishes in Geneva, Rochester, East Rochester and Irondequoit. Since 1988, he has been doing sabbatical relief, serving in place of priests who are on sabbatical or are ill.

Like Father Endres, Father Moorby saw entering the seminary not as a commitment, but as part of the process of discernment. He first began actively exploring the priesthood after earning a business degree at R.I.T. and serving two years in the U.S. Army at Fort Dix, N.J. He then returned to Rochester to work at a store. He also became involved with the Charismatic Renewal.

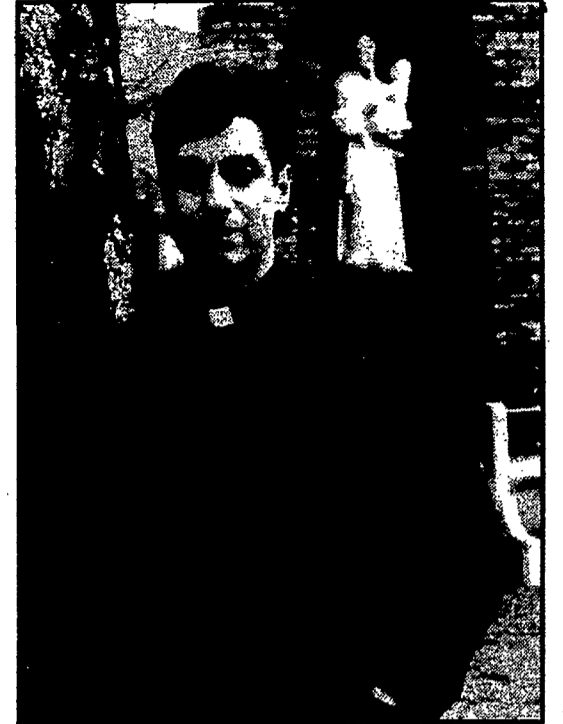
"I had never really asked aloud, 'God, what should I do with my life?'" Father Moorby said. But once involved with the Charismatic movement, he said, "I began asking God for directions."

After his ordination to the priesthood, Father Moorby served parishes in Seneca Falls, northern Cayuga County, Penfield and finally Newark Valley and Catonk. He is also part of the liaison team for the Charismatic Renewal in the



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Father Endres confers with social worker Amy Jewett about several patients' status at Rochester General Hospital. The priest visits patients on request. During his rounds he attends to any patient regardless of religious affiliation.



Father Timothy T. Brown



Father Michael C. Hogan

Rochester diocese.

Father Brown also entered seminary only after graduating from college — and without being actively involved with diocesan formation programs. But even while pursuing a political science degree, he was considering the priesthood. He talked with diocesan vocations officials, and made sure he took the courses he would need to enter the seminary.

Interest in the priesthood had been engendered in Father Brown's parish, St. Pius X. In addition to the good examples of the priests serving there, he observed, he also enjoyed contact with the transitional deacons who served their internship years at the parish. By the time he finished college, he said, "I was sure I wanted to go to the seminary."

Since ordination, Father Brown has served at St. Margaret Mary Parish in Rochester before being assigned to Holy Cross. He also served as the temporary administrator at St. Gabriel's Parish in Hammondsport and St. Patrick's Parish in Prattsburg from October, 1993, to January, 1994.

Despite their upbeat assessments of their vocations, the four are not blind to some of the problems. On a practical level, Fathers Endres and Brown both mentioned the paperwork involved with administering, which, Father Brown said, "takes you away from your ministry. But," he added, "It's something that needs to be done."

Father Hogan noted the lack of vocations to the priesthood among young people as a concern of his. He also acknowledged that he had some initial difficulties when — in the wake of the Second Vatican Council — lay involvement increased in the church.

"Pastors didn't need lay committees," to get things done before the council,

Father Hogan noted. But after the working through the process of empowering lay people he said, lay involvement has "become a strength in the church. You see people take ownership of their parishes."


Father Moorby, meanwhile, said he finds it "frustrating when seeing the negative and critical spirit of some people involved in the church. There's nothing uplifting about it, nothing that builds up the body of Christ."

On the whole, however, the four priests seemed to share a common happiness with their choices — as summed up by the junior and senior members of the quartet.

"I enjoy being a priest and entering into people's lives and celebrating with them God's love in their lives," Father Brown commented.

"My 43 years have been very happy," Father Hogan said. "I don't look back at any time I was depressed, when I wanted to quit. There was always something that buoyed me up."

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