

Diocese celebrates 12 priests marking jubilees

This year, 12 diocesan and religious priests serving in the Diocese of Rochester celebrated jubilees, including two priests marking 65 years of service: Fathers Thomas F. Brennan and Benedict A. Ehmann.

65 years

It's 41 years and still counting for Father Thomas F. Brennan's length of service in Corning. As he celebrates his 65th year in the priesthood, nearly two-thirds of that time has been spent serving residents of this Southern Tier city.

Father Brennan arrived in Corning in 1953 as pastor of St. Mary's Church. Since then, his place of residence has never changed and, although he retired in 1975, Father Brennan remains active at the church as his 90th birthday approaches.

"I do whatever I can," Father Brennan remarked. "I say Mass every morning. I feel I know a good many people."

Father Brennan was born in Rochester Sept. 30, 1904. He attended St. Patrick's School, Rochester Catholic High School, and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. He was ordained on June 8, 1929, by Bishop John F. O'Hern at the former St. Patrick's Cathedral. Father Brennan also received a master's degree from Niagara University.

His first parish assignment was at St. Augustine's Church in Rochester from 1929-31. Father Brennan then returned to St. Andrew's Seminary for a 17-year tour of duty as a faculty member.

In 1948 he became pastor of St. Patrick Church in Mount Morris. Father Brennan's next — and as it turns out, his most recent — assignment came in 1953, when he relocated to Steuben County to begin his pastorate at St. Mary's Church.

Since he retired, Father Brennan has seen St. Mary's join with St. Patrick's and St. Vincent DePaul churches in Corning — as well as Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Painted Post — to form the Corning-Painted Post Roman Catholic Community. Yet he said his routines have been relatively unaffected by the clustering.

And he will continue to stay active for as long as possible, he reports.

"My physical condition would be the only thing to stop me," said the priest, who added that his only current ailments are "the usual aches and pains."

A Mass honoring Father Brennan's 65-year anniversary was celebrated on June 5.

Through 65 years of priesthood, Father Benedict Ehmann has consistently shared his love of good music and good liturgy with the diocese.

A Rochester native, Father Ehmann was born January 3, 1905, to Benedict and Josephine Scheg Ehmann. He attended St. Boniface Parish and studied at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

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Father Ehmann was ordained to the priesthood June 8, 1929. He served as assistant pastor for two years at St. Patrick's Cathedral while also teaching at St. Andrew's Seminary. In 1931 he became professor of English and church music at the seminary.

In 1938, Father Ehmann became professor of music and liturgy at St. Bernard's Seminary, while continuing to teach at St. Andrew's.

Although he left his seminary post in 1947, he remained active in promoting liturgical reform — pioneering some of the reforms brought about by the Second Vatican Council. He became a nationally recognized writer and speaker on issues of liturgy and church music, and was one of four liturgical experts whose addresses were published by the University of Notre Dame Press in 1956 in *Analysis of the Restored Holy Week Rites for Pastoral Use*.

From 1947 to 1961, Father Ehmann served as pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Parish in Watkins Glen. In 1948, he also founded St. Mary of the Lake's mission parish, St. Benedict's in Odessa. In 1954, he acted as technical adviser of the Watkins Glen Summer Theatre production of "The Velvet Glove." He also gave a public piano performance to aid the building fund of St. Mary's Parish Center.

He was named pastor of St. Michael's Parish in Rochester in 1961, remaining there until he retired in 1974. In 1965, he co-authored with Father Albert J. Shamon *Come to Me*, a high-school level textbook examining the Sacraments and the Mass.

Following his retirement, Father Ehmann moved to Holy Apostles Parish, where he continues to reside. There, he preaches and writes a weekly column for the parish bulletin, "Father Ehmann's Amen Corner," about which he said simply, "I've got to keep people up on our wonderful faith."

Although he has been forced to curtail his piano playing due to a thumb injury, Father Ehmann said he is putting his time to good use reading the many books he has collected over the years, and keeping up with the latest theological and liturgical developments. He remains active, he noted, adding gratefully, "Thanks be to God."

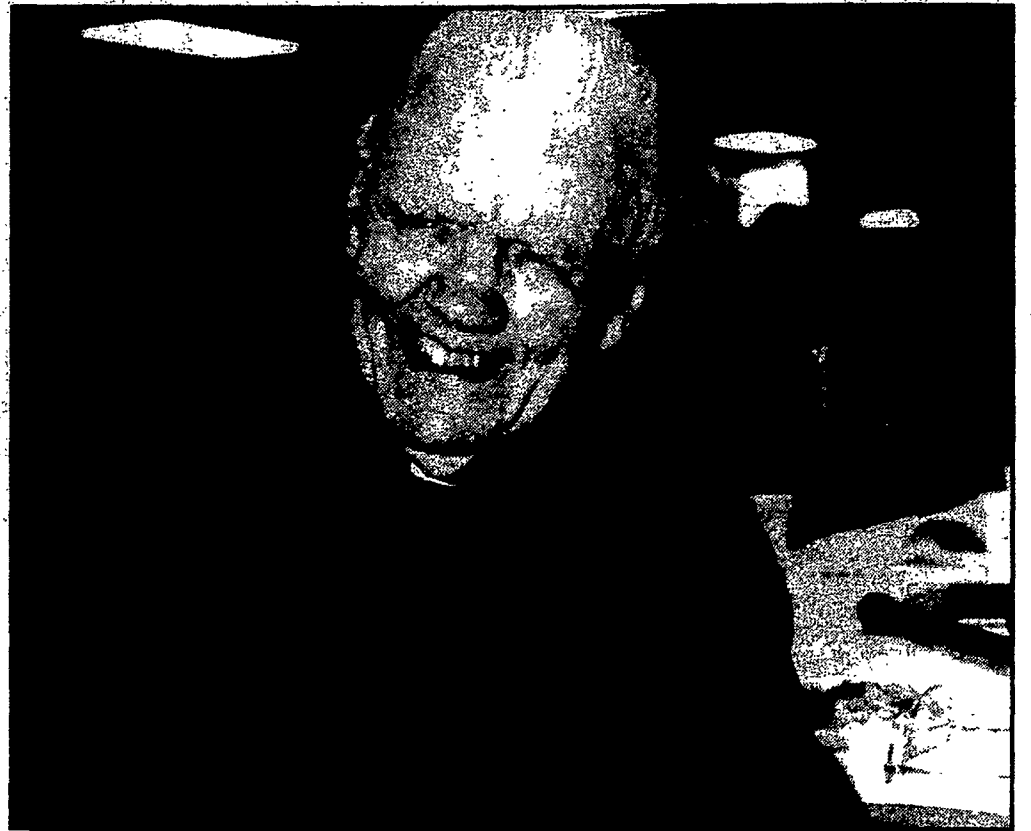
50 years

Father Leo Dunn, CSSR, a Rochester native, this year celebrates 50 years as a priest.

Father Dunn was born Oct. 1, 1916. He attended Immaculate Conception School, then entered the Redemptorist seminary at St. Mary College in North East, Pa. He completed studies at Mt. St. Alphonsus Seminary in Esopus, N.Y., and was ordained a priest June 18, 1944.

From 1944 to 1961, Father Dunn served in various missions in Brazil. He returned to Rochester to establish the former St. Joseph School, then was assigned to a Redemptorist retreat center in Pobyhanna, Pa. After 14 years at Pobyhanna, he transferred Dame Retreat Center in Canandaigua, where he served as the superior throughout the 1980s. He remained at Notre Dame until 1990, when he took up residence at Our Lady of Victory Parish in Rochester. At the parish, he remains active in pastoral work.

Father Gennaro J. Ventura actually celebrated his 50th anniversary as a priest



File photo
Father Benedict Ehmann, who was ordained to the priesthood in 1929, recently celebrated his 65th jubilee.

this past December. Because several priests were being called into the military in the early 1940s, Father Ventura's ordination date was moved ahead six months, and he was ordained on Dec. 19, 1943, at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Father Ventura was born in Rochester on Sept. 5, 1918. He served at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and St. Francis Xavier churches in Rochester from 1943-56, and was pastor of the former St. Lucy Church in Rochester from 1956-61. Father Ventura then returned to Mt. Carmel as pastor from 1961-70.

Two more pastorates followed: at St. Francis de Sales Church in Geneva from 1970-80, and at Holy Ghost Church in Gates from 1980-89.

Following his 1989 retirement, Father Ventura moved to Springwater. He has assisted at St. Joseph's Church in Wayland since that time.

Father John T. Walsh, the founder of St. Paul's Parish in Webster, is also celebrating his golden jubilee as a priest.

Born in Geneva June 4, 1918, Father Walsh attended St. Stephen's School and DeSales High School in the Ontario County city before attending St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries in Rochester. He was ordained on June 3, 1944, by Bishop James E. Kearney at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Father Walsh served as assistant pastor at a number of parishes: Immaculate Conception, Ithaca (1944-50); Holy Cross, Rochester, (1950-51); St. Margaret Mary, Rochester (1951-54); St. Mary, Elmira (1954-59); St. Joseph's, Penfield (1959-60); and St. Mary's, Auburn.

In addition to his parish duties during these years, Father Walsh also served as a chaplain at Ithaca College (1944-50); Elmira College (1955-59); and Auburn Community College (1960-67). He founded the Newman Associations at Ithaca and Elmira colleges.

Father Walsh became the founding pastor of St. Paul's Parish in Webster in 1967, selecting the name himself. Initially, parish services were celebrated at Sweet's Farm. Father Walsh oversaw construction of the church and the growth of the parish.

After retiring in 1988, Father Walsh took up residence at St. Margaret Mary Church in Rochester.

25 years

Father William G. Endres was born March 17, 1943 in Rochester. He attended St. Salome's School, then St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. He was ordained June 7, 1969, at Sacred Heart Cathedral by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.

Following his ordination, Father En-

dres was assigned to St. Stephen's Church, Geneva (1969). He served as an associate pastor at Sacred Heart Cathedral (1974-80); St. Jerome's Parish in East Rochester (1980-83); and St. Thomas the Apostle Parish (1983-88).

Between 1988 and 1994, Father Endres served in sabbatical relief for priests who are on sabbatical or who are ill. In that capacity, he has served in parishes in Corning, Elmira, Geneva, Greece, Penn Yan and Webster, and as a temporary staff chaplain at Rochester General Hospital. On June 8, 1994, he was appointed permanent staff chaplain at the hospital.

Father James Enright is a native of Buffalo on loan to the Diocese of Rochester.

Born October 12, 1942, Father Enright attended Canisius College, then St. John Vianney Seminary in East Aurora. He was ordained May 24, 1969.

Father Enright served at St. John of the Cross Parish in Whitesville from 1969-70, then at St. Mary of the Angels Parish in Olean in 1970, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Buffalo from 1970-71 and St. Joseph's Parish from 1971-72.

In 1972, Father Enright was loaned to the Diocese of Rochester, serving first at St. Alphonsus Parish in Auburn, then moving to St. Mary's Parish in Auburn that same year. Since 1978, he has been a chaplain at Auburn Correctional Facility, but continues to reside at St. Mary's Parish. He also provides weekend assistance at Sacred Heart Parish in Auburn.

Father Ronald P. Frederick was born April 5, 1941, in Rochester. He attended Holy Rosary School, Harding School and Aquinas Institute, then St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. He was ordained June 7, 1969 at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Following his ordination, Father Frederick was assigned as to Good Shepherd Parish, Rochester (1969-73). He was assigned as assistant pastor at Church of the Assumption, Fairport (1973-75); St. Pius X, Chili (1975-79); St. Margaret Mary Parish, Irondequoit (1979-82); St. Philip Neri Parish, Rochester (1982-83); and St. Ambrose Parish, Rochester (1983-85); then as parochial vicar at St. Mary's Parish, Canandaigua (1985-90).

Father Frederick was on sabbatical in 1990-91, then was assigned as temporary administrator at St. Francis DeSales Parish, Geneva (1991), and as parochial

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Retirees

Look for coverage on diocesan retirees next week.