

## Priest to return to his home parish

### Celebrated his first Mass there

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

Ordained in 1948, Father Dominic F. Mockevicius has retired from his pastorate at St. Vincent dePaul Church, Churchville, and assumed administrative duties at St. George's Lithuanian Church in Rochester. He recently returned from a visit to Lithuania, where he brushed up on the language.

Moving to St. George's represents a homecoming for Father Mockevicius, who was baptized in the parish and received his sacraments there. He also celebrated his first Mass at St. George's.

It also represents a continuation of the parish, which has been run by the incoming administrator's older brother, Father Charles Mockevicius, for the past two years. Father Charles is retiring this month from his duties as temporary administrator of St. George's.

Prior to assuming the pastorate at St. Vincent's in 1982, Father Dominic spent 20 years as chaplain at Craig Develop-



Provided photo  
Father Dominic F. Mockevicius (right) has retired from his pastorate at St. Vincent DePaul Church in Churchville. His brother, Charles, recently retired from his pastoral duties at St. George's Lithuanian Church.

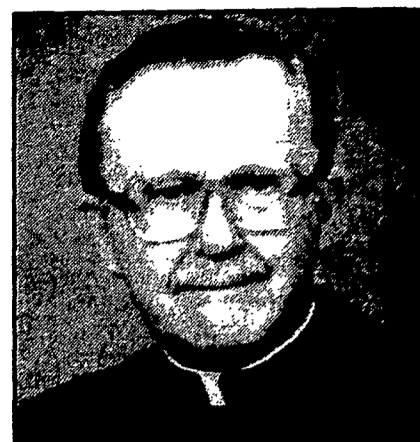
mental Center in Sonyea, and as chaplain at Groveland Correctional Facility.

Father Dominic has also served as pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle, Red Creek, and of St. Patrick's in Cato. Fa-

ther Dominic also served an assistant pastorate at St. Mary's, Canandaigua, St. Alphonsus, Auburn, and at the following Rochester parishes: St. Boniface, St. George's Lithuanian, Mount Carmel and Holy Family.

Born in a house next door to St. George's Lithuanian Church, Father Charles was ordained in 1947, a year before his brother. Father Charles has served as temporary administrator of St. George's for the last two years. Prior to taking on that position, he helped out at the parish once a month for two years.

A priest of the Rockville Centre diocese, Father Charles has held various positions on Long Island and Brooklyn. His last position before coming to Rochester was as chaplain at Veteran's Hospital in Northport, Long Island.



File photo  
Father Robert J. Kanka

## Trumansburg pastor retires

TRUMANSBURG — Father Robert J. Kanka's ties to the *Catholic Courier* are closer than those of most priests: he served as associate editor at this newspaper in the mid-1960s, right when the Second Vatican Council was convening.

"It was an exciting time. There were a lot of new things we could write about," recalled Father Kanka.

Trumansburg residents are more familiar with Father Kanka in his role as pastor of St. James the Apostle Church, where he has served from 1980 until his recent retirement.

A Geneseo native, Father Kanka attended the University of Rochester and received training at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries before being ordained in 1956, at the age of 32, by Bishop James E. Kearney at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Father Kanka's schooling was delayed by his military involvement in World War II. He served in the U.S. Army's medical department, and eventually retired as a master sergeant.

His first priestly assignment was as parochial vicar at St. Anne's Church in Rochester from 1956-61. From there, he served in a similar role at Holy Family Church in Rochester from 1961-64.

Father Kanka's duties at the *Catholic Courier* — then known as the *Catholic Courier Journal* — lasted from 1964-68. During this time he also took graduate studies in journalism at Syracuse University.

His parish assignments resumed in 1968, when he went to St. Michael's Church in Rochester for one year as parochial vicar. From 1969-72 he was parochial vicar at St. Peter and Paul Church in Elmira.

Father Kanka's first assignment as pastor was at St. Patrick's Church in Mt. Morris from 1972-74. That was followed by parochial vicar duty at St. Patrick's Church in Seneca Falls from 1974-78, St. Mary's Church in Auburn in the summer of 1978, and St. Patrick's Church in Elmira from 1978-80.

With his 14-year stint as Trumansburg's pastor now completed, Father Kanka has moved on to St. Ann's Church in Hornell where he will provide assistance for St. Ann's pastor, Father Elmer J. Schmidt.

A two-part celebration was held in Tompkins County for Father Kanka on Sunday, June 26. An open house took place at St. James Church in the afternoon, followed by an evening dinner at the Holiday Inn in Ithaca.

"It was triumphant," Father Kanka said with a chuckle regarding his retirement gala.

— Mike Latona

## Father Hogan looks back on 43 years

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

HONEOYE — For 43 years, Father Michael C. Hogan has been ministering to the needs of people — and in turn has found strength through them.

"Every place I have been has been a great source of satisfaction because the people have always been supportive and encouraging," said the retired pastor of St. Mary Our Lady of the Hills Church, 8961 Main St. "It's been different names, but the same kinds of circumstances. That's always kept me buoyed up."

Father Hogan retired from his pastorate June 28 due to health problems — mostly resulting from a 1991 heart attack — but he will remain active in pastoral ministry at St. John of Rochester Parish in Fairport.

The Lima native was born Sept. 23, 1925. He graduated from Lima High School, then followed in the footsteps of his brother, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan,



File photo  
Father Michael C. Hogan.

and attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. Father Hogan was ordained June 2, 1951.

His first assignment was at St. Francis DeSales Parish in Geneva from 1951-53. He then received assignments as assistant pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral (1953-60), St. Patrick's Church, Elmira (1960-65) and St. Francis DeSales Parish (1965).

In 1966, Father Hogan was appointed secretary to then-Bishop of Rochester Fulton J. Sheen, who later became an archbishop. Father Hogan has warm memories of the archbishop and of his three years working with him.

"He was just a very dynamic and tremendous man for the diocese," Father Hogan commented. "It was a great honor and privilege to work with Bishop Sheen."

After Bishop Sheen retired in 1969, Father Hogan became pastor of St. Paul of the Cross Parish in Honeoye Falls. He left the parish in 1975 to become pastor of St. Mary's in Corning, before taking the same position at Ithaca's St. Catherine of Siena Church and All Saints Parish in Lansing in 1982. He was named pastor of St. Mary's in Honeoye in 1987.

Father Hogan said that during his years as pastor in Honeoye, the parish has grown through the development of various committees and by getting people involved.

Among the parish's major accomplishments was construction of a \$400,000 parish center to provide space for meetings, social activities and the religious-education program. The funds were pledged by both year-round and summer parishioners, and the center was dedicated in May 1993.

Father Hogan noted that in retirement he will "miss each weekend gathering with the people and celebrating the Eucharist." He will also miss the parish deacon, Leo Aman, and "the children, who are always so life giving."

But also he is looking forward to freedom from administrative duties and the seemingly endless cycle of meetings.

In assessing his life as a priest thus far, Father Hogan added, "My 43 years have been very happy. I don't look back at any time I was depressed, when I wanted to quit. There was always something that kept me buoyed up."

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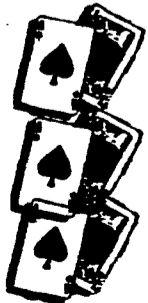
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