# Holy Name strives to serve every parishioner

**Parish Profile** 



By Rob Cullivan Staff writer

GREECE - In 1983, when Father Jack V. Rosse became pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, the first thing he learned was that his fortunes there would rise only as far as his bread did.

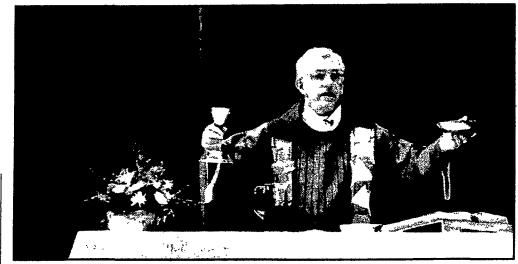
According to the parish staff, the late Father Tom Reddington, who retired in 1983 and died two years later, was wellknown for his homemade bread, which he regularly distributed to parishioners.

"Everywhere I went I heard 'Father Tom brought me a loaf of bread," recalled Father Rosse, who is celebrating 40 years in the priesthood this year.

The priest added that he decided to learn how to bake bread so that he could break bread with his new-flock.

"For that reason (and his concern for our palates), Father Jack has continued the bread baking tradition," wrote Linda Pleckan in the parish's 30th-anniversary

Apparently, Father Rosse has settled in nicely at Holy Name of Jesus, which he described as a parish with an interesting mix of age groups, although a large num-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer Father Jack Rosse, pastor of Holy Name of Jesus Parish, celebrates the Eu-

ber of members are elderly citizens living in nearby housing complexes.

charist during a July 31 Mass.

Still, many young families call Holy Name their spiritual home, as evidenced by the 250 children and teenagers who attend religious education and youth ministry programs, according to JoAnn White, director of religious education. The parish currently serves 1,300 families, according to Father Rosse.

Carol Leary, who recently completed a term as parish council president, joined the parish along with her husband, John, about two years after its founding. The parish has always blended such pre-Vatican II practices as nocturnal adoration with a commitment to the council's emphasis on lay participation, she noted.

has stayed on course." Part of the reason for this is that Holy Name offers a variety of ministries to satisfy both the devotional and social sides of

mented. "We're not extreme liberal or ex-

treme conservative. We don't alienate fac-

tions. I'd say we're a Vatican II parish that

Richard Lombard, pastoral associate. "It's a balanced parish," he remarked. "It's diverse in terms of its members. I see å very strong effort to meet the needs of

its members, according to Deacon

all its groups without excluding anybody." Indeed, the parish staff outlined a host of ministries to serve its members, including a "Resurrection" ministry that consists of holding a luncheon in the parish center after a funeral for members of the deceased's family. The luncheon,

### **Vital Statistics**

Name: Holy Name of Jesus Address: St. Martin's Way,

Significant dates: Founded 1964: New parish center opened 1989.

staffed by parish volunteers, is held at no cost to the family, Father Rosse said.

"It's almost an evangelization tool," he commented, noting that Catholics who haven't been to church in years are impressed by Holy Name's warmth during their grief.

In addition to serving the bereaved, staff members spoke about parish activities for seniors, including outings for senior citizens organized by the parish group "Fun People," and teenage and older volunteers who provide such services to elderly citizens as yard clean-up and transportation.

Deacon Lombard noted that the parish also has a Stephen Ministry whose members perform such acts as hospital visits, which are also performed by the Legion of Mary, according to Joanne Croteau, the parish's administrative assistant.

In addition to such volunteers as the parish's ushers, about 140 of Holy Name's members assist in liturgical preparation as lay liturgical ministers - sacristans, eucharistic ministers and lectors, Deacon Lombard said.

Lay people are so involved at the parish that it doesn't employ a janitor, according to Leary. Six teams of five-to-seven people volunteer to clean the parish on a regular basis, she and staff members

Despite their reputation for a balanced approach to the church's life, Holy Name parishioners are not afraid to go out on a limb when the times demand it, according to Ron Fabry, music director/organist.

Fabry oversees Holy Name's adult choir, which boasts about 25 members, and its 11-member contemporary ensemble. He also recruits a children's choir for Christmas and teaches a 12-member cantor

But it is the congregation as a whole that really impresses Fabry. He illustrated this point by recalling that last May he had to instruct the faithful in the use of hand signs for a children's liturgy marking the School of Religion's graduation. The children loved the fact that the adults participated in the Mass in such a lively manner, he added.

"I got up there like an idiot and said, We're going to do this," and they did it, Fabry said.

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