

Milestones

Priest jubilarians mark 635 years of service to diocese and the church

Continued from page 2A

Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

Following ordination, Father Foy served as assistant pastor at the following parishes: St. Bridget's, Rochester,

from 1945-47; Our Mother of Sorrows, Rochester, from 1947-51; St. Michael's, Penn Yan and St. Andrew's, Dundee, from 1951-56; St. Helen's, Gates, from 1956-58; St. Jerome's, East Rochester, from 1958-63; St. Patrick's, Owego, from 1963-65; and St. Joseph's, Penfield, from 1966-67.

Father Foy took up his first pastorate at St. Cecilia's, Elmira, in 1967, a position he held until 1972 when he was named pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul, Elmira. He continued on as administrator of St. Cecilia's while serving at Ss. Peter and Paul until 1974.

In 1978, he was named pastor of St. James, Waverly, until he retired in 1989.

Currently, Father Foy resides at St. Charles Borromeo, Elmira Heights, having previously lived at both St. Mary and St. Vincent DePaul parishes in Corning.

In addition to his May 7 celebration, Father Foy and fellow jubilarian Father Joseph T. Gaynor will concelebrate their jubilees during an 11 a.m. Mass followed by a reception on Sunday, May 21, at St. Charles Borromeo Church, Elmira Heights.

Father Joseph T. Gaynor was

born on Dec. 21, 1918, in Auburn. He studied at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, and was ordained a priest March 17, 1945.

After his ordination, Father Gaynor served as assistant pastor at Holy Cross, Rochester (1945-47); Holy Apostles, Rochester (1947-54); St. Francis of Assisi, Auburn (1954-56); St. Michael's, Newark (1956); Ss. Peter and Paul, Rochester, (1956-61); and St. John the Evangelist, Clyde (1961-67).

In March, 1967, Father Gaynor was named administrator of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Addison. He became the parish's pastor in June of that year, serving there until 1969, when he was named pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Elmira Heights. He remained pastor at the Tier parish until he retired in 1989. Currently, Father Gaynor resides in the St. Alphonsus rectory in Auburn, where he continues to assist the parish.

In addition to a May 11 celebration at St. Thomas the Apostle, Father Gaynor will be celebrate his jubilee at St. Charles Borromeo May 21, at the 11 a.m. Mass, in conjunction with Father Edward J. Foy, and at St. Alphonsus with June 11 at the noon Mass along with Father William J. Gaynor. Both Masses will be followed by receptions.

Father Robert A. Meng retired in 1993 after 25 years as pastor of Rochester's Holy

Rosary Church.

A Rochester native, Father Meng was born on Feb. 4, 1919. After graduating from St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, he was ordained a priest on March 17, 1945.

Father Meng served as assistant pastor at several parishes: St. Jerome's, East Rochester (1945-49); St. Alphonsus, Auburn (1949-53); St. Patrick's, Rochester (1953-56); St. Felix, Clifton Springs (1956-57); St. Anne's, Rochester, (1957-58); St. Ann's, Hornell (1958-61); and Corpus Christi, Rochester (1961-66).

From 1966-68, Father Meng served with Catholic Relief Services in the former Congo (now Zaire), Dahomey and Togo. He returned to the United States in 1968 to become pastor of Holy Rosary Church, remaining there until he retired.

Father Meng currently lives in a private residence in East Rochester. He also provides some weekend assistance at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Irondequoit.

Father Charles R. Nangle was born May 17, 1916, in Auburn. He attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries and was ordained a priest March 17, 1945.

Father Nangle served as assistant pastor at St. Francis Xavier Church, Rochester (1945-48); Ss. Peter and Paul, Rochester (1948-55); and St. Stephen's, Geneva (1955-57). While at St. Stephen's he also served as principal of Geneva DeSales High School.

From 1957-61, Father Nangle was assistant pastor at Holy Family, Auburn. He served in the same position at St. Louis, Pittsford, from 1961-66 and at St.

Augustine's, Rochester, from 1966-67.

Father Nangle became the pastor of St. Gregory's, Marion, in 1967, remaining there until 1981. He then served as associate pastor at Sacred Heart, Auburn, from 1981-86.

Father Nangle retired in 1986. He currently lives at the St. Francis of Assisi rectory in Auburn.

Rochester-native Father Jerome F. Schifferli was born May 10, 1919. He attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries before being ordained a priest on March 17, 1945.

Father Schifferli served as assistant pastor at St. Michael's, Rochester, from 1945-53, then

at St. Mary's, Rochester, from 1953-61.

In 1961, Father Schifferli became the chaplain at the Elmira prison's Reception Center, remaining there until 1972. He was subsequently named pastor of St. Joseph's, Lima, where served until his retirement in 1989. He later became the parish's pastor emeritus. He currently lives in private residence near the Lima parish, helping out where needed at parishes around the diocese.

— Lee Strong and Rob Cullivan



Varieties of religious life show Holy Spirit's power

John Thavis,
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The rich variety of the church's religious life demonstrates the power of the Holy Spirit, Pope John Paul II said.

"It is a consolation to see that even in recent times the Holy Spirit has brought forth new forms of community in the church and inspired new experiments in consecrated life," he said at a general audience March 22.

The pope said the Holy Spirit's influence is felt in the call to a vocation, in the formation of candidates to religious life and in the special inspiration given to founders of religious communities. He said the church hierarchy should be guided by the Spirit when it canonically approves and promotes new institutes.

He said church history is full of fruitful projects that began when pastors made requests or gave suggestions to the founders of religious orders.

"Religious, for their part, are called to develop a special sen-

sitivity to the promptings of the Holy Spirit," he said.

He said the Holy Spirit can help individual religious better understand the commitment to poverty, chastity and obedience, particularly the "radical gift to Christ through celibacy."

During the audience, the pope greeted a group of more than 100 people injured over the last several years in the Balkan fighting. He called them "witnesses of a dramatic tragedy that has for too long been destroying life and social harmony in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in Croatia, threatening all of southeastern Europe."

He asked the wounded to become "apostles of forgiveness and reconciliation" in their homeland.

Vatican: Priest numbers down, seminarians up

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

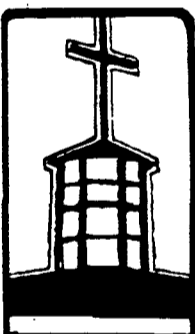
VATICAN CITY — The number of priests worldwide decreased in 1993, reflecting a drop in the number of new ordinations, the Vatican said.

At the same time, the steady increase in the number of seminarians has given church leaders hope for the future, said a Vatican statement March 17.

The statement, which provided information on selected statistical trends in the church, coincided with the presentation of the "Annuario Pontificio," the Vatican yearbook, to Pope John Paul II. The yearbook for 1995 reflects statistical data dating from Dec. 31, 1993.

While figures on priests were not provided, the Vatican said the number of priests who died or left the priesthood in 1993 was greater than the number of new ordinations. In the years from 1989-92, the number of priests had increased.

The number of major seminarians also continued to rise. Since 1978, the year in which Pope John Paul was elected, the number has increased 65.5 percent, from 72,670 to 103,709, the statement said.



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