

Fr. Mura: pastor, youth leader; 50

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — Father David W. Mura, pastor of Rochester's Holy Apostles/St. Anthony of Padua Parish Cluster who was long associated with clown ministry and diocesan youth retreat programs, died suddenly of a heart attack on Tuesday night, May 2, 1995, while attending a meeting with members of the city cluster. He was 50 years old.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has named James Bloomfield, director of religious education at St. Anthony of Padua Church, temporary administrator of the cluster, effective May 3, 1995.

It was through teen retreats and work at Family Camp (Kamp Koinonia) that Father Mura met Father Brian C. Cool, who at the time of their first encounter was a freshman at Aquinas Institute.

Father Cool, now priest intern at Fairport's St. John of Rochester Church, credits Father Mura with helping him to discern his vocation.

Father Cool said the late priest had three inspiring qualities.

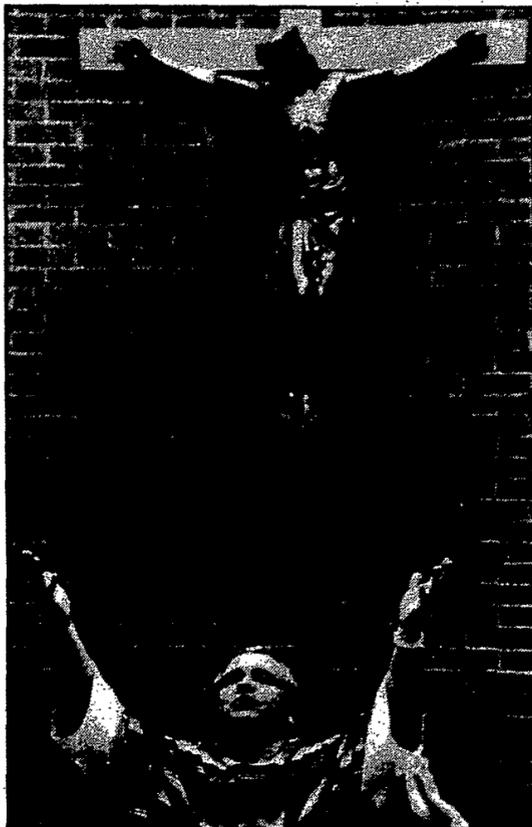
"He was humorous, he had a deep sense of faith, and a deep caring for people," noted Father Cool, homilist at the Mass of Christ the High Priest celebrated for Father Mura May 5 at Holy Apostles Church, 530 Lyell Ave. Father Mura had "a deep commitment to the priesthood in the sense of service to others. That exemplified his life," the priest intern said.

Sue Versluys, youth ministry coordinator at Spencerport's St. John the Evangelist Church, also met Father Mura through teen retreats and Kamp Koinonia. For Versluys, Father Mura was a "teacher, mentor and friend."

"What he was really good at was helping people to realize that Jesus lived in them," Versluys said. "And he helped people to realize their gifts and challenged them to use them. That's what he did for me. He wouldn't let you get by with not using the gifts that he'd help you to see in yourself."

Born in Rochester Nov. 25, 1944, Father Mura attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, before going to the Pontifical Gregorian University at the North American College in Rome. He was ordained May 29, 1971, by Bishop John E. McCaffrey at Webster's Holy Trinity Parish.

Father Mura's first assignment was as assistant pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish in Ithaca from 1971-75. While in Ithaca, he was involved with flood-relief efforts in 1972 following Hurricane Agnes. The *Ithaca Journal* sub-



File photo
Father David W. Mura, shown here celebrating Mass during a youth retreat last March at the Notre Dame Retreat Center in Canandaigua, died of a fatal heart attack May 2.

sequently named him "Man of the Year for 1972" for his relief efforts.

In 1975, Father Mura was named associate pastor of Christ the King Parish in Irondequoit before he went on to serve as associate pastor at St. Mary of the Lake Parish in Watkins Glen and St. Benedict's Parish in Odessa from 1976-79.

Father Mura was named diocesan director of youth retreats in 1979. He also became involved with Family Camp at Kamp Koinonia in Italy Valley. Through those ministries, Father Mura came in contact with thousands of youths and hundreds of families from across the diocese.

In September, 1986, Father Mura was named temporary administrator of St. Mary's Parish in Waterloo. In December of that year, he was appointed parochial vicar at St. Michael's Parish in Penn Yan and St. Andrew's Parish in Dundee. He remained at those two parishes until Jan. 5, 1993, when he was named pastor of Holy Apostles Church. He became pastor of the Holy Apostles/St. Anthony Cluster last June.

Father Cool recalled visiting Father Mura a few months after he was named pastor of Holy Apostles Parish. After lunch, the two went for a walk.

"I was deeply impressed by how much he knew about the neighborhood, pointing to where people lived, greeting people, even though he had just gotten there," Father Cool recalled. "It was amazing to walk the streets. He was like an old-time pastor."

Father Mura had heart surgery this past January and February, and was just returning to full-time pastoral duties when he suffered his fatal heart attack.

Bishop Dennis W. Hickey was the principal celebrant at the Mass of Christ the High Priest May 5. Bishop Matthew H. Clark was the main celebrant at the Mass of Christian Burial, celebrated May 6 at Holy Apostles Church. Interment was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Father Mura was predeceased by his father, Herbert Mura. He is survived by his mother and stepfather, Helen and William Raymond; a sister and brother-in-law, Kathleen and Paul Nagy of Hamlin; a brother and sister-in-law, Stephen and Marleen Mura of Newstead, N.Y.; and many nieces and nephews.

Donations in Father Mura's name may be made to Kamp Koinonia, Inc., Box 274, Wolcott, N.Y. 14590.

19th ward parishes set fundraisers to prepare for centennials in 1998

ROCHESTER — Members of St. Monica's and St. Augustine's parishes this weekend plan to kick-off fundraising efforts to prepare for the two churches' centennial celebration in 1998.

Founded in 1898, both parishes belong to the Roman Catholic Community of the 19th Ward, along with Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, 640 Brooks Ave.

A centennial planning committee at each parish is developing a roster of activities particular to its own community, but also some jointly sponsored events as well. A logo contest, suppers, picnics, memory books and other activities are projects slated by each parish.

On Sunday, May 22, St. Monica's Church, 831 Genesee St., will host a pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 670 Thurston Road. Tickets are \$4 for adults, \$3 for children under age 12, and \$12 for families of four or more.

Tickets are available by advance sale only, and can be obtained at St. Monica's rectory by calling 716/235-3322 or Bob Mulcahy at 716/889-8591.

Benefit sweepstakes slated by Elmira Catholic schools

ELMIRA — "Sweepstakes '95," a fundraiser sponsored by Holy Family Catholic Schools, is currently underway.

A grand prize of \$10,000 will be awarded, with several other cash prizes included as well. Tickets can be purchased for \$100. The tickets will also include admission to a grand-prize drawing gala scheduled for Friday, June 9.

For ticket information, call 607/734-6339 or 734-4414.

Arc of Monroe Co. seeks new volunteer companions

ROCHESTER — The Arc of Monroe County, 50 W. Main St., is seeking volunteers to be companions for adults with mental retardation and/or developmental disabilities.

Volunteers are asked to commit four hours per month. For further details, call Diane Bailey at 716/325-8025.

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