

Illness is forcing Hornell pastor to retire this month

HORNELL — Saying that his struggles with Parkinson's disease have made it too difficult to carry out his pastoral duties, Father Elmer J. Schmidt is stepping down as pastor of St. Ann's Church.



Father Schmidt's resignation is effective June 27. However, he will continue to reside at St. Ann's Church and remain as active as his health allows.

"I plan to carry on — at a leisurely pace — the privileges of the priesthood," Father Schmidt said.

St. Ann's new pastor will be Father James P. Jaeger, currently parochial vicar at St. Margaret Mary's Church in Irondequoit. Father Jaeger had previously served in the Hornell parish as priest intern and later as parochial vicar

from 1987 to 1991.

Father Schmidt, 65, has been pastor at St. Ann's Church since 1983. During his 39 years as a priest, one of his favorite rituals has been visiting the homes of all his parishioners — often traveling by bicycle.

However, the progression of Parkinson's disease — a degenerative disease characterized by rhythmic tremor and muscle rigidity — has severely limited Father Schmidt's mobility in recent years. Currently, Father Schmidt said, he is "50 percent on and 50 percent off."

"There were two times this week I was not able to make it to the sacristy. It's unpredictable, put it that way," Father Schmidt said in a recent interview.

Prior to his assignment at St. Ann's, Father Schmidt was pastor at St. Margaret Mary's Church in Apalachin from 1974 to 1983.

Father Schmidt, a Rochester native,

grew up in Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish. Following his ordination in 1956, the priest also served as parochial vicar at: Rochester's Holy Family (1956-59) and St. Anne's (1959-64) churches; Fairport's Church of the Assumption (1964-67); and Corning's St. Vincent's Church (1967-74).

— Mike Latona

Correction

A typographical error occurred on page 7A of last week's graduation supplement. Kathleen Redman Whelehan, who will deliver the commencement address to Nazareth Academy's senior class June 26 at Rochester's Eastman Theatre, graduated from the all-girls school on Lake Avenue in 1967.

We regret the error.

Obituary

Joan Bradshaw; mother of Gates pastor

Joan Bradshaw, the mother of Father Alexander H. Bradshaw, pastor of Holy Ghost Church, died Sunday, April 2, 1995, in her hometown of Wimbledon, England. She was one week shy of her 82nd birthday.

According to her son, Mrs. Bradshaw was an active woman who enjoyed golf, tennis, bridge and cricket. Yet the Gates pastor's fondest praise centered around his mother's inspiring personality.

"She had a beautiful faith, and great sense of humor, and a happy laughter. She cared about people and never said

an unkind word about anybody," Father Bradshaw said.

In addition to Father Bradshaw, Mrs. Bradshaw is survived by her husband, John; daughter, Gillian; sons, Richard and Dominic; and five grandchildren.

A Mass for Mrs. Bradshaw was celebrated by Father Bradshaw April 10 at Sacred Heart Church in Wimbledon.

Donations in her memory can be made to the Holy Ghost Memorial Fund at Holy Ghost Church, 220 Coldwater Road, Rochester, N.Y., 14624.

— Mike Latona

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