

## 1995 diocesan appointments list continues

As noted in last week's issue, we are reporting in weekly installments all previously unpublished diocesan appointments. The following appointments were effective June 27, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

### Chaplains

**Father Eugene G. Emo**, from contract Catholic chaplain to full-time temporary Catholic chaplain at U.S. Veterans Administration Hospital in Canandaigua, effective April 2, 1995.

**Father Paul J. Freemeser**, from temporary priest coverage to chaplain at Mercy Health and Rehabilitation Center in Auburn (residence at St. Alphonsus Rectory, Auburn).

**Father Michael A. McHale**, from parochial vicar of St. Stephen Church in Geneva, to full-time co-chaplain at Rochester Institute of Technology.

### Temporary Administrators/Priest Coverage

**Deacon John J. Frawa**, to temporary administrator, concurrent with present responsibilities as deacon of Family Team Ministry Cluster, effective March 12, 1995, through Father Paul J. Ryan's recovery.

### Sacramental Ministers/Other

**Father R. Richard Bricker**, to director of Ministry to Priests of the Diocese of Rochester, effective July 1, 1995, concurrent with present responsibilities as pastor of St. Boniface Church in Rochester.

**Father B. Thomas Celso**, released for special assignment outside the diocese.

**Father John M. Mulligan**, to sacramental minister of St. Joseph Church in Rush, concurrent with present responsibilities as vicar general and moderator of the Pastoral Office.

**Father Louis A. Sirianni**, from academic studies at St. Paul University in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, to sacramental minister at Guardian Angels, Rochester, effective Sept. 2, and concurrent with responsibilities as judge, Tribunal Office, which became effective May 15, 1995.

### Sabbaticals and Coverage

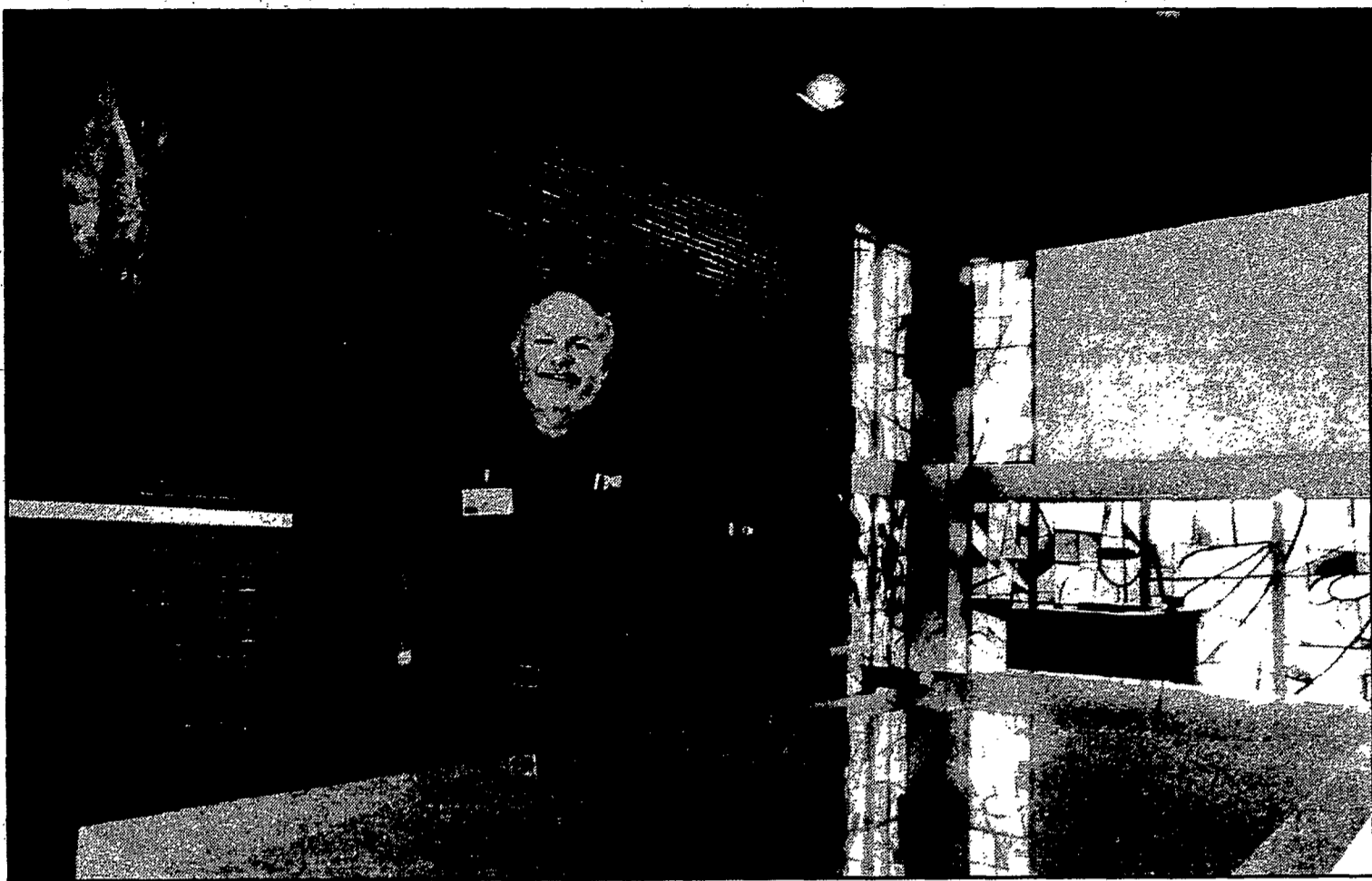
(Effective July through December, 1995, unless otherwise noted.)

**Father Ralph J. Frauts**, from parochial vicar of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Rochester, to sabbatical at Marianella Pastoral Centre in Ireland.

**Father James E. Hewes**, from co-chaplain of SUNY College at Geneseo, to sabbatical at Washington Theological Union.

**Father Robert J. Kennedy**, to priest coverage of St. John the Evangelist Church (Humboldt Street) in Rochester, concurrent with present responsibilities at St. Bernard's Institute, effective during Father Kevin Murphy's sabbatical.

**Father Kevin P. Murphy**, from pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church (Humboldt Street) in Rochester, to sabbatical at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Father Thomas Hoctor, chaplain of St. Jude's Chapel at the Rochester Psychiatric Center, was able to save the original chapel built through donations of the Rochester Catholic community in 1969.

## Priest's efforts save St. Jude's Chapel

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — St. Jude is the patron saint of lost causes.

So it's ironic that St. Jude's Chapel at the Rochester Psychiatric Center might have been a lost cause if not for the efforts of Father Thomas Hoctor and center officials — and perhaps a little help from the good saint himself.

Back in 1991, architects designing the new edifice to house the psychiatric center's patients originally called for the demolition of the chapel built in 1969 with contributions from Catholics throughout the Rochester community.

Father Hoctor, the center's chaplain since 1978, got wind of the plans.

"I was upset by that, and made it known to a lot of people," the chaplain recalled.

Part of the reason the priest was upset was that, if the project continued as planned, the efforts and hard work of people under his predecessor, Father L. James Callan, to raise money and build the chapel would be for naught.

"(State officials) didn't know it was built by the community," the chaplain observed.

Fortunately, Father Hoctor's immediate supervisor listened to his objections and wrote a memo making the chaplain's feelings known. Father Hoctor received added support from Martin Von Holden, the center's executive director, who later met with state officials in Albany.

As a result of that meeting, the state agreed not only to keep the chapel, but to renovate the edifice and, in effect, build the new Rochester Psychiatric Center around it, Von Holden said.

Patients are currently moving into the center's new building — a process that is expected to be completed by Aug. 31. Father Hoctor said he hoped to celebrate

the inaugural Mass in the renovated chapel the first weekend of September.

Part of what went into the decision to save the chapel, Von Holden explained, is that psychiatric treatment currently focuses on patients' rehabilitation — and faith can play a role in that rehabilitation.

"If you already have a religious connection, whatever that may be, our chaplain will try to help you maintain that," Von Holden said. "We see pastoral care as part of our armament for treating people."

Not only did the state keep the chapel as part of the plan, it also paid for repairs and renovations, Father Hoctor said.

The rear third of the chapel has been converted into the Faith Chapel/Beth Aaron to be used for Protestant and Jewish services. The chapel received new carpeting, a new ramp for caskets for use during funerals, and window blinds, and an enclosed passageway was built running from the main building to the chapel.

Previously patients had to be bused or walked to the chapel, and not all patients could get to the chapel for Mass, Father Hoctor said. The new corridor, however, will allow far more of the approximately 270 patients currently living at the facility to attend Mass.

Renovations to the center will also make it easier for Father Hoctor and part-time chaplain, Rabbi Lauren Skopitz, to carry out other duties of the chaplain's office, including assisting therapists working with individual patients, offering spiritual therapy group sessions, and coordinating individual volunteers and parish groups involved in the Lilac Program. Lilac volunteers assist with parties, ser-

vices and special occasions at the center.

Father Hoctor noted that the center's staff recognize that chaplains often play an important role in patients' therapy.

Indeed, he observed, "I have stories from patients who are outpatients that what we did in this chapel was more helpful for them than anything else they did in this place."

**EDITORS' NOTE:** Parishes or individuals interested in volunteering for the Lilac Program may contact Father Hoctor at the Rochester Psychiatric Center, 716/473-3230.

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