

# Milestones

## Priests

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Home since 1992.

Born Oct. 10, 1943, in Rochester, he attended St. Bernard's Seminary, where he received four degrees. He also has studied at the Rochester Institute of Technology, the University of Rochester and St. John Fisher College.

Father Bayer served as chaplain and staff specialist for the U.S. Army at Fort Knox, Ky. (1969); chaplain at Memorial Hospital, Long Beach, Cal. (1970); assistant pastor of St. Francis Xavier Church (1971-1972), executive director of the Office of Human Development, Corning, (1972-1973); weekend associate pastor of St. Mark's Church (1976-1992); and chaplain at St. Joseph's Infirmary (1977-1992).

He served the Diocese of Rochester as director of planning (1973-1976), director of pastoral planning and research

(1976-1979), director of pastoral planning and management (1979-1984), and chancellor and director of the Division of Support Ministries (1984-1992).

Father Bayer has served on the Holy Sepulchre Cemetery board since 1975 and has also served on boards of the National Catholic Fiscal Management Conference, Becket Hall Inc., St. Bernard's Institute, Priests' Council of Rochester, American Red Cross Monroe County Chapter and committees, and the National Pastoral Planning Conference.

He is credited with establishing and directing the first diocesan-wide long-term pastoral planning and research process, and the Ministerial Review Committee, which reviewed various ministry programs for budgeting purposes; and with upgrading the diocesan budget process. He also co-chaired a task force to analyze parish computer needs, established the five-year Financial Planning Process Task Force, and the

diocesan Oversight Task Force, and designed the Parish Visitation Program, or census, and the Comprehensive Parish Profile, to look at the church's place in the broader community. He co-directed the first seven annual Thanks Giving Appeals, and directed the diocesan Building Commission.

A noon Mass of thanksgiving is planned for June 30 at Holy Name of Jesus Church.

Father Donald Curtiss, staff chaplain at Strong Memorial Hospital since 1987, was ordained April 17, 1971, in St. Michael Church, Penn Yan.

Born May 8, 1944, in Rochester, he moved to Penn Yan as a youth and attended St. Michael's School there. He also attended St. Andrew's Seminary in Rochester.

Father Curtiss received an associate of arts degree from Cathedral College in Manhattan; a bachelor's degree in philosophy and English, and a master of divinity degree from St. Bernard's Seminary; a bachelor of canon law degree in 1976 from Catholic University of America; and a licentiate in canon law in 1978 from St. Paul University in Ottawa, Canada.

As a transitional deacon he served at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Greece (1969) and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Brockport (1970); and as associate pastor at St. Thomas Aquinas, Leicester (1971), St. Patrick's Church, Seneca Falls (1972-1974), and St. Patrick's Church, Elmira (1975-1978). In 1985 he became associate pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca, and was administrator there in 1987 before leaving for Strong.

He is vice official of the tri-

bunal, and also has been its secretary. For the past few years he has been chaplain for the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary.

Strong Memorial Hospital plans a reception to recognize Father Curtiss Monday, April 22.

Father P. Frederick Helfrich this year celebrates 25 years as a priest, 10 years as chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, and 10 years of holding bi-ritual faculties for the Melkite rite.

Born Oct. 1, 1944, in Rochester, he moved to Spencerport, where he attended St. John the Evangelist School. Later he attended St. Andrew's Seminary in Rochester.

While attending St. Bernard's Seminary he taught religious education for parishes, worked with the Rochester Area Multiple Sclerosis agency and later joined its board, and served Our Lady of Mercy Parish and St. Monica's, helping establish the Southwest Ecumenical Ministry.

In 1969 he was ordained a transitional deacon and in 1970 he graduated from St. Bernard's. He studied clinical pastoral education at Lancaster, Pa., General Hospital.

In 1970 he and three classmates became the Diocese of Rochester's first deacon interns. "We pioneered this program, which delayed ordination until 1971," he said, explaining that no diocesan priests were ordained in Rochester in 1970. He served as deacon intern at Holy Name of Jesus Parish.

On April 30, 1971, he was ordained to the priesthood at Holy Name, becoming "the first

person from Spencerport to become a priest in this century." He celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving at St. John's in Spencerport May 2, 1971.

Father Helfrich continued as priest intern at Holy Name for four years, also serving in the Greece Pastors' Association and police chaplaincy.

He became associate pastor at St. Thomas More Parish, Brighton, in 1975, and became involved with Orthodox churches and St. Nicholas Melkite Greek Catholic Parish. He also became a confessor for the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary. In 1976, he notes, his brother Peter was ordained for the Diocese of Ogdensburg.

Father Helfrich was named associate of St. Mary's Church, Dansville, in 1981, and was a chaplain for Noyes Memorial Hospital. In 1983 he became an associate at St. Lawrence Church.

He received bi-ritual faculties from the Congregation for Eastern Churches and Pope John Paul II. He currently serves as assisting priest for St. Nicholas Parish, the only Melkite church in western New York, and formerly assisted at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Church. He informally represents the diocese at Orthodox events and is spiritual moderator of the Catholic Physicians Guild.

Since March 1986 he has been chaplain for St. Mary's Hospital. Noting that is where he was born, he observed, "I am back where I started."

St. Mary's will celebrate a Mass of thanksgiving for Father Helfrich at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 28; a celebratory Byzantine rite liturgy is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, at St. Josaphat's, Irondequoit.



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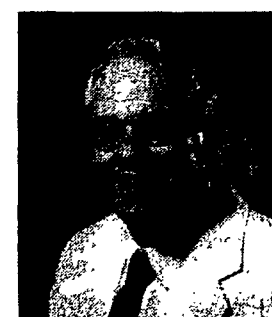
## Franciscan scholar marks 25th year

Father Edward J. Ondrako, OFM Conv., is a chaplain, theologian-in-residence and religious studies instructor at Cornell University.

Father Ondrako, 50, was born in Florida and raised in Binghanton. He became a Conventual Franciscan Friar in 1963 and was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in Albany in

1971.

He was founder and director of the Rensselaer ROOTS Youth Program, serving from 1968 to 1973. Also during that time, he served as a research assistant for New York State Catholic Charities



(1972) and as a researcher in public policy for the New York State Catholic Conference (1972-73).

Father Ondrako was director of vocations for the Conventual Franciscan Order

from 1973 to 1979, and was also an adjunct professor in history and spirituality at St. Hyacinth Seminary in Granby, Mass., from 1975 to 1978. He served as associate pastor of Our Lady of Angels Parish in Albany from 1979 to 1980.

In 1980 he began a 13-year stint as associate campus minister at Syracuse University. Then, following a sabbatical at Cornell University, he became chaplain at the Ithaca-based college in 1994. He has since added the titles of theologian-in-residence and instructor of religious studies.

Father Ondrako holds a doctorate degree in humanities from Syracuse University. He has also earned master's degrees in philosophy, Franciscan spirituality, social work and theology. In addition, the Franciscan priest is one of the world's leading experts on Cardinal John Henry Newman, the patron of Catholic campus ministers in the United States.

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on his 60 years  
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