

DIOCESAN NEWS

Tier hospital launches Christmas fundraiser to benefit foundation

The St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation in Elmira has begun accepting orders for its Christmas ornament sale.

These white satin ornaments are \$5 each. Proceeds will benefit the foundation.

Orders may be placed by sending a check for the number of ornaments ordered, name, address, and daytime phone to St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation, 555 E. Market St., Elmira, 14902. Persons ordering will be called when ornaments are ready for pickup. For details, call 607/737-7004.

Dominican monastery asks for fund support

The Dominican Monastery of Mary the Queen, Elmira, is accepting donations to support its endowment fund.

Gifts in the forms of cash, securities, life insurance and wills are all welcomed.

Those wishing to make donations may mail them to the Dominican Monastery, 1310 W. Church St., Elmira, NY 14905-1998. For further information, call 607/734-9506.

Fr. Norris marks 50th with pope

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

His procession prolonged by greetings to frail peers, Pope John Paul II entered St. Peter's Basilica to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his priesthood Nov. 10. He then focused on the Eucharist.

"Fifty years ago, in ordaining us priests, the bishop anointed our hands to express that the hands of those young men — which we were back then — would become privileged instruments of Christ, the high priest," the pope said in his homily.

Concelebrating the Mass with more than 100 members of the College of Cardinals, almost 100 bishops and an estimated 1,500 priests also ordained in 1946, the pope said every priest has inherited the mission of the Apostles to commemorate Christ's sacrifice.

One of the priests who was present hailed from the Diocese of Rochester: Father John P. Norris, priest-in-residence at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Mendon. Ordained in Rochester in November 1946, Father Norris said celebrating Mass with the pope and fellow clerics was both uplifting and humbling.

"How many times in history is the pope going to celebrate his golden jubilee with you?" Father Norris asked rhetorically in an interview with the *Catholic Courier* Nov. 18.

A native of Scotland who moved to the United States with his family in 1928, Father Norris said he was joined at the Mass by relatives from his native country.



Father John P. Norris

Father Norris said he and his co-jubilarians wore stoles emblazoned with the papal coat of arms. He explained that the priests were grouped by language, noting that he was among Irish, Australian, Canadian, U.S. and British priests at the Mass. Father Norris also said different parts of the Mass were said in different languages, but that all the priests present said the eucharistic prayer in Latin.

"It certainly was a help to this celebration because all of us could remember it,"

he said, noting the jubilarians were ordained before Vatican II introduced the use of the vernacular at Mass.

Saying the eucharistic prayer in Latin with his fellow priests moved him deeply, he noted.

"It was strengthening because there were so many who had consecrated their lives to the same thing, the same goal," he said.

The priests had gathered from 85 countries to celebrate their golden jubilees with Pope John Paul, but also to reflect with him on the meaning of their priesthood and the ministry they still are called to carry out. Meeting so many priests from around the world, particularly the Eastern European priests who had suffered under Soviet domination, put his own ministry in perspective, Father Norris said.

"It was very humbling to realize that a lot of those present went through a lot more than probably I did as a diocesan priest," he said.

After the Mass, the pope led tens of thousands of people gathered in St. Peter's Square in the recitation of the Angelus, which kicked off an hour-long festival of music honoring Pope John Paul and the other jubilarians.

Father Norris spoke about the day's events with a gleam in his eye.

"It was amazing to be a part of the universal church," he said.

This article contains reporting by Catholic News Service.

Obituary

Father Leo Matuszewski, former pastor, army chaplain; 88

Father Leo J. Matuszewski, who served as a U.S. Army chaplain in the Pacific theater during the Second World War and as a pastor at several diocesan parishes, died in his Palm Springs, Fla., home Nov. 8, 1996. He was 88.

Born June 8, 1908, in Morris Run, Pa., to the late Andrew and Mary Matuszewski, Father Matuszewski attended St. Mary's College in Orchard Lake, Mich.; St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester; and Posen Seminary, Posen, Poland. He was ordained May 21, 1937, by Cardinal August Hlond in the cathedral in Posen.

After his ordination, Father Matuszewski returned to the Rochester, serving first as assistant pastor at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Rochester, and as chaplain at St. Ann's Home and Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. He served as the assistant pastor at St. Stanislaus Parish, Rochester, from 1938 to 1942.

In December 1942, Father Matuszewski

enlisted as a chaplain in the U.S. Army. He served with U.S. troops in the Pacific theater, and rose to the rank of major before leaving the service in 1946.

For the next 14 years, he served as assistant pastor at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Rochester.

Father Matuszewski was named pastor of St. Catherine Parish, Addison, in February 1960, then became pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Parish, Watkins Glen, and its mission parish, St. Benedict's, Odessa, in 1964.

In 1965, he was named pastor of St. Patrick's Parish, Owego, remaining there until 1973, when he was named assistant



pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Parish, Ontario.

In 1978, Father Matuszewski retired from active ministry, but continued to assist at St. Cecilia Parish, Rochester, while living with his sister, Jean, in Rochester. They moved to Florida in the early 1980s.

Father John Gagnier, who served as a transitional deacon at St. Mary of the Lake Parish, Ontario, in 1973-74, remembered Father Matuszewski as "very loyal to family, especially his sister."

The two became friends, remaining in touch even when Father Matuszewski moved to Florida. In fact, Father Gagnier visited the retired priest there each year.

Bishop Dennis Hickey, retired auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of Rochester, said that Father Matuszewski was noted for his

sense of humor, and for an outgoing personality that drew people to him.

"He was one of those people, who, when you meet them, you think they were your friends for life," Bishop Hickey said.

In addition to his parents and his sister, Father Matuszewski was predeceased by two brothers, Father Stanley J. Matuszewski, MS, and Father Eugene J. Matuszewski. He is survived by two brothers, Aloysius of Lakewood, Fla., and Val Matz of Rochester.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark was the principal celebrant at the funeral Mass for Father Matuszewski Nov. 15 at St. Mary of the Lake Church, Ontario. Father Gagnier was the homilist. Interment was in Calvary Cemetery, Ontario.

— Lee Strong

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