

DIOCESAN NEWS

Brighton pastor to take new position on Jan. 1

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

In a move that will occur six months earlier than originally planned, Father Robert L. Collins is leaving St. Thomas More Parish in Brighton at the end of this month.

Father Collins, pastor at St. Thomas More for the past 11½ years, will transfer to the Community of St. Joseph/St. William in Livonia and Conesus. The move was precipitated by the sudden death Oct. 1 of Father William A. Trott, pastor at St. Joseph/St. William since 1989.

According to Father Robert Ring, diocesan director of priest personnel, a temporary administrator will replace Father Collins at St. Thomas More until either a pastoral administrator or a pastor is appointed in June. Father Ring said a decision will not be reached until mid-December on whether the temporary administrator will be a priest or layperson.

Charles Fitzgibbon, head of a 13-member parish planning committee at St. Thomas More, said the upcoming move caught his group off guard. Fitzgibbon explained that the committee had not anticipated Father Collins' departure until June 1997, when he was to reach the end of his second six-year term as St. Thomas More's pastor. Diocesan guidelines stipulate a priest cannot serve more than two consecutive six-year terms at any parish.

"The parish is still in a state of shock," Fitzgibbon said.

However, with a declining number of diocesan priests available, Fitzgibbon also noted that many parishes experience similar struggles.

"We're not the only ones going through this process," Fitzgibbon said. "In a sense, we're in the same situation Livonia was."

Both Father Trott and Father Collins were the only resident priests at their respective parishes.

Fitzgibbon said that the planning committee at his 730-family parish had already explored the possibility of not having a resident pastor after June. An ongoing priority for St. Thomas More, he said, will be to explore stronger working relationships with neighboring parishes.

Because the planning committee appears to have developed solid long-term goals, Father Collins said he felt more comfortable about the timing of his departure from St. Thomas More after the diocesan Priest's Personnel Board approached him about the St. Joseph/St. William opening.

"The planning process was well underway. I was confident," Father Collins said.

Although Father Collins said he has "grown to love the people" at St. Thomas More, he added that St. Joseph/St. William "sounded like an excellent parish."

Meanwhile, St. Joseph/St. William parishioners appear to be happy about getting another resident priest so quickly after Father Trott's death.

"The general consensus is that the people are looking forward to moving ahead instead of having this uncertainty," said Greg Emerton, the St. Joseph/St. William parish pastoral council president. "We're very pleased to have a priest coming."

Emerton noted that the parish draws 700 people to weekend Masses year-round, and an additional 500 worshippers in the warmer months when travelers and summer residents flock to the Conesus Lake area.

Father Collins' arrival will help bolster a staff that is also losing its pastoral associate, Gloria Uterino, the acting parish administrator. She will leave St. Joseph/St. William upon Father Collins' arrival to become full-time coordinator of diocesan Synod goal number three — to recognize and value the dignity of women in church and society. Uterino began working in her newly created diocesan position on a part-time basis Oct. 28.



Matthew Scott/Staff photographer

Worship to the Salsa Beat

David Antonetti of the Antonetti Orchestra keeps the salsa beat at a Mass held at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church Dec. 1. The Mass featured lively music and vocal interaction between the celebrant and the congregation as part of an experimental approach to reach younger Hispanic parishioners.

Obituary

Sr. Maloney; served SSJs in finance

Sister Gabriella Maloney, SSJ, who served for 35 years in finances for Nazareth College, died Nov. 3, 1996, in the St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary.

A native of Canandaigua, Sister Gabriella entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Mary's Parish, Canandaigua, in 1937. She earned a baccalaureate degree from Nazareth and a master's in commercial science from Boston University.

Sister Gabriella was a member of the Nazareth faculty for 42 years, including 15 years as a business department teacher, and also served as treasurer, vice president for finance and director of financial operations. She also was a member of the Nazareth College Board of Trustees and treasurer-general of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

When Sister Gabriella retired in 1985, Rose Marie Beston, Nazareth president, said, "I am happy for her that she will be able to celebrate the fact that she leaves the institution at a time when it experiences unprecedented fiscal strength due in large measure to her years of stewardship as its chief financial officer."

In 1988 Sister Gabriella moved to the SSJ motherhouse and in 1992 to the infirmary.

She is survived by one sister, Mary Dannahe of Clifton Springs; nieces and nephews; as well as her sisters in the congregation.

Msgr. William Shannon celebrated her funeral Mass in the motherhouse chapel Nov. 7. Also present were Msgr. J. Emmett Murphy, and Fathers John Hayes, John Cavanaugh, CSB, and James Slattery.



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