

Milestones

Priests

Continued from page 5A

George's in 1990, and have worked there since.

Father Charles celebrated his 50th year as a priest with a Mass at St. George's on April 6. The celebration came two days after his 80th birthday on April 4.

Asked about the meaning of a vocation that has taken him to so many places, Father Mockevicius recalled meeting Dorothy Day. The legendary co-founder of the Catholic Worker movement told him never to concern himself with where he was, he said.

"She said 'God will put you where he wants you,'" he remembered. "Those were very satisfying words. I think about them all the time."

Father Richard J. Orlando said



he would counsel any man considering the priesthood to think about both its positive and negative aspects.

"I would suggest to him that he would have to have a very strong commitment," Father Orlando said. "He would have to understand that it's a life with a lot of joys and a lot of difficulties. It takes a lot of faith and grace."

The retired pastor of St. Michael's Church in Lyons pointed out that the priesthood gave him the chance to live out an ambition nurtured in his youth.

"It's the only thing I ever wanted to do," he said of the priesthood. "And I wanted to do it to serve people and bring their eternal souls to the Lord."

Father Orlando grew up in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Rochester, attending its school as well as St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

Following ordination, he served as assistant pastor at the following Rochester churches: St. Francis Xavier from 1947 to 1954; Our Lady of Mount Carmel from 1954 to

1955; St. Anthony's from 1955 to 1958; Mount Carmel again from 1958 to 1963; Holy Rosary from 1963 to 1966; and St. Helen's from 1966 to 1968.

In 1968, he became pastor of St. Michael's Parish, a position he held until he retired in 1993. Father Orlando said being pastor gave him some of the greatest satisfactions of his priesthood.

"It was something that brought a lot of joy, being the 'father' of the family," he said.

He joked that it was an experience that had its trying moments.

"I was called at 4 in the morning, once, and a young man told me he was the father of a new child," he remembered. "I appreciated hearing about it, but not at 4 in the morning," he added with a laugh. "But it was a joy."

Since retiring, Father Orlando has resided at St. Thomas More Rectory in Rochester, and occasionally fills in at various parishes. He has also traveled, he said, and spent time visiting family members. He plans to celebrate his jubilee on Sunday, June 15, with a noon Mass at St. Thomas More Church.

Father Edward A. Zimmer



grew up right next-door to Blessed Sacrament Church in Rochester, a fact he said greatly influenced him to become a

priest. Every day he saw priests and nuns, and he served as an altar boy, he said.

"I apparently wanted to emulate that lifestyle, to follow that example," he said of the priests and nuns of his youth.

Father Zimmer, who retired as pastor of St. Mary's Church in Auburn in 1992, also credited his mother Josephine, and his father, Edward, for influencing his vocation.

"My mother was very active in all the church societies," he said. "My father was an usher. I think our life centered around the church, there was no question."

He added that his father once unsuccessfully ran for city council, and that his mother was active in both secular and religious social service agencies. Such examples led him, as a priest, to volunteer to serve on the board of directors of such agencies as the American Heart Association, Habitat for Humanity and the United Way, he said. He noted that, unlike other people, he rarely suffered stress from giving as much of his time as possible to others.

"I've always liked to be around people," he said. "My assistants used to say that they could be dead tired at the end of the day, and we could go someplace, and I'd be invigorated and they'd be ready to drop."

Father Zimmer is a graduate of Blessed Sacrament School, and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. Following ordination, he served at the Rochester churches of St. Bridget's, St. Boniface and Immaculate Conception Church in Rochester, before he was assigned to Immaculate Conception in Ithaca.

In 1959, he went to Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester, where he assisted until he was named dean of students at St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester in 1967. He also served as business manager of King's Preparatory School in Gates in the late 1960s.

In 1969, Father Zimmer assumed his first pastorate at St. Monica's in Rochester, a position he held until 1979 when he was named pastor of St. Mary's in Auburn.

Father Zimmer will celebrate his 50th year as a priest with an 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 22, at Rochester's St. John the Evangelist Church (Humboldt Street) where he currently resides. A reception will follow in the parish's Sullivan Center.

In retirement, he said he spends his time gardening and filling in for other diocesan priests. He particularly enjoys saying Masses for Catholic school children, he said.

"I am booked like you wouldn't believe," Father Zimmer said.

25 years

Father Louis A. Vasile, or-



dained April 8, 1972, "can't celebrate enough," he said prior to celebrations that began with a Mass and reception

April 6 at Church of the Resurrection in Fairport, where he's pastor.

"I'm excited," he said, adding that his mother, Regina E. Vasile of Auburn, planned to attend all three of his celebrations. (His father, Louis J., died in 1975.) The celebrations included a 4 p.m. Mass April 12 at his home parish, St. Francis of Assisi in Auburn, with a reception following at St. Joseph's School; and a Mass April 8 during the priests' convocation in Ithaca.

"I've experienced a lot of good things about church," he said, since his early days of encouragement from Father John J. Nacca at St. Francis and the priests and women religious during his school days.

Father Vasile attended St. Francis School and Mt. Carmel High School in Auburn, and then St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in theology.

He was a deacon intern at St. Ann's in Hornell (1971-72); associate pastor at St. Philip Neri, Rochester (1972-74), St. Christopher in Chili (1974-75), St. Patrick in Corning (1975-77) and St. Lawrence, Greece (1977-82).

He also served as Priests' Council executive secretary from 1972 to 1975 and as priest secretary to Bishop Matthew H. Clark, from 1982 to 1986, before overseeing the formation of the Catholic Communities of St. Anne and St. Gregory in Palmyra/Marion and serving as that cluster's pastor from 1986 to 1992. He was priest administrator at St. Gabriel, Hammondsport, and St. Patrick, Prattsburgh, in 1992. He also provided priest coverage in 1993 at St.

Michael's in Penn Yan and St. Andrew, Dundee, and St. Francis of Assisi. He became Resurrection's pastor in 1993.

Father Edward L. Palumbos



has been pastor since 1992 of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Greece, where he was ordained March 24, 1972. He'd

also done his deacon internship there, from 1971 to 1972, and was ordained a deacon there.

A 25th anniversary celebration is planned for June 1, beginning with the Eucharist at 11:30 a.m. at St. Charles, followed by a picnic at nearby Barnard Exemptus Field.

"It is my hope that people from all the parishes and ministries where I have served over the years will be able to join my present parish family for this happy day," Father Palumbos said.

He served as priest intern/assistant pastor at St. Alphonsus Church of Auburn (1972-76); executive priest for Marriage Encounter in the Rochester Diocese (1976-79); assistant pastor of Church of the Annunciation (1979-80); and co-pastor (1980-85) and pastor (1987-92) of Church of the Good Shepherd.

Father Palumbos also served on the board of directors of the Cayuga County Counseling Center, the Priests' Council, was a diocesan consultant, and currently is director of the Priest Intern Program and a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

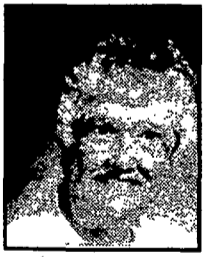
"Being a priest today is a challenge and a joy," he said. "It's not for the faint of heart or those who need to know everything about their future. I take my security from the love of God's people whom I strive to serve as a leader and from the Lord's faithfulness in my life."

Born July 22, 1945, he attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, and received two master's degrees from the Rochester Center for Theological Study. His home parish is St. Cecilia's, Irondequoit.

SSJs

Continued from page 7A

Sister Jonathan Schneider, SSJ, has served as a teacher for 23



years and in pastoral ministry for 25 years.

"Meeting and assisting so many wonderful and faith-filled

people, children as well as adults, has made my life as a Sister of St. Joseph most fruitful and rewarding," she said. "Thanks to my parents who inspired me as well as my teachers, Sisters of St. Joseph, who guided me to where I am in 1997."

Sister Jonathan taught at the following schools: St. Augustine's, Rochester, St. Patrick's, Mt. Morris, Ss. Peter and Paul, Elmira and Holy Trinity, Webster, while at St. Patrick and Ss. Peter and Paul, Sister Jonathan also served as principal.

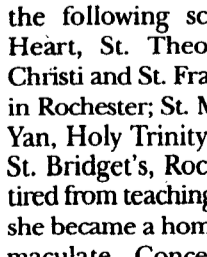
In 1972, Sister Jonathan changed ministries from teaching to pastoral ministry. She first worked at St. Jerome's Church, East Rochester, as a pastoral assis-

tant. Eight years later, she accepted the same post at St. Thomas More Church, Rochester.

Sister Jonathan also serves as a parish visitor at Assumption of Our Lady in Fairport.

Since 1991, Sister George Madeline Bartolomeo, SSJ, has been at the reception desk welcoming guests and answering the telephone at St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary.

Before working at the infirmary, Sister George Madeline devoted most of her time to teaching. She started teaching in 1948 at St. Ambrose School, Irondequoit. She then taught at



the following schools: Sacred Heart, St. Theodore, Corpus Christi and St. Francis Xavier, all in Rochester; St. Michael's, Penn Yan, Holy Trinity, Webster, and St. Bridget's, Rochester. She retired from teaching in 1967, when she became a home visitor at Immaculate Conception Parish, Rochester. She later worked in the family program at the Montgomery Center.

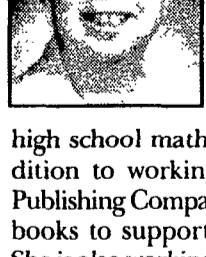
Sister George Madeline holds

two bachelor degrees, one in education and the other in history.

"Religious life was the right choice for me because ever since I was a little girl I always knew that God was calling me to religious life," Sister George Madeline said.

She now resides at the motherhouse.

Sister Ann Xavier Gantert, SSJ, works for the New York State Education Department.



Currently, she is developing the state syllabus for high school mathematics, in addition to working with Amsco Publishing Company, writing textbooks to support that syllabus. She is also working on another revision of earlier textbooks.

"I have always found teaching to be a challenging and rewarding work," she said. "Then teaching was the foundation and prerequisite for my work for the New York State Education Department. In turn, my work with the syllabus and the textbooks made my teaching more exciting. So my work has enabled me to interact both with students and teachers.

Each part has enhanced the other areas."

Sister Ann Xavier began teaching in 1950 at Nazareth Hall in Rochester. She later taught at DeSales High School in Geneva and St. Agnes High School in Rochester. From 1968 to 1979, she taught full-time at Nazareth Academy, Rochester, while working for the state on the syllabus for high-school mathematics. From 1979 to 1989, she taught part-time at the academy while working for Amsco School Publications on textbooks and teacher manuals for the same subject. During those last two years, she also served as the bookkeeper at Nazareth Academy, computerizing its accounting process.

Sister Ann Regina Mitrano, SSJ, remembers her earlier years



in religious life when there were many sisters, crowded convents and the numerous openings of schools and convents.

"I have lived through dramatic changes with fewer sisters as teachers in schools and the clos-

ing of schools and convents," she said. "Change has called forth new gifts and directions in our lives."

The Nazareth College graduate taught at the schools of St. Ambrose, Irondequoit, St. Alphonsus, Auburn, and Sacred Heart, Rochester. In 1960, she accepted the position of teacher and principal at St. Lucy's School, Rochester. She remained in that job for six years, after which she became the assistant director of novices at the motherhouse.

In 1967, she returned to education serving as superior and principal at St. Jerome's School, East Rochester. She went on to teach at St. Monica's, St. Augustine's, St. John the Evangelist, Our Lady of Lourdes and Seton Catholic schools, all in Rochester, before retiring in 1994.

Though Sister Ann Regina has retired from the traditional classroom, she continues to teach and witness to children at Hope Hall, Rochester.

Out of nine children in Sister Ann Regina's family, four entered religious life. Her sister, Sister Concetta Mitrano, acted as Sister Ann Regina's sponsor when she entered in 1946.