

Milestones

Rose bushes beckon Father Bernard Dollen

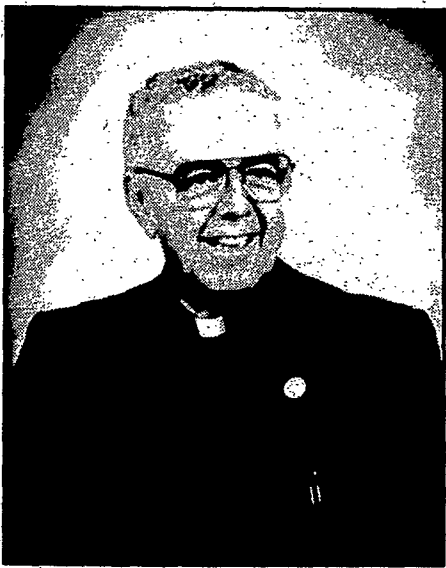
Father Bernard Dollen has had one motto since his ordination June 6, 1953: "All for Jesus through Mary with a smile."

It's the motto of his patron saint, Bernard, with a slight modification — the addition of "with a smile" by modern Trappists, he noted. It's encribed on plates and plaques throughout his office at St. Christopher Church, North Chili.

After his retirement this summer, Father Dollen plans to spend more time in his gardens than in church. He has three gardens and more than 50 rose bushes to tend at his home not far from St. Christopher, where he's served since 1990.

Father Dollen also served as: assistant pastor at Rochester's Holy Rosary (1953-57) and St. Francis Xavier (1957-65); St. Salome's, Irondequoit (1965-66); and Holy Ghost, Gates (1966-72); and as pastor at St. Andrew's (1972-80), Rochester, and St. John of Rochester in Fairport (1980-90).

He has also served as a member of the



Priests' Senate, the Priest Personnel Board, and the Clergy Relief Board.

Born on Christmas Eve, 1927, Father Dollen grew up in Immaculate Conception in Rochester, attended Good Coun-

sel and Immaculate Conception schools, and studied at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

Looking back on his years of service that followed, he considers the building of St. John's church and hall as "great moments." But then, he laughed, overseeing a building project "sounds like you're building brick by brick" when in reality "you're sitting in the rectory and wondering if it will ever be done."

He also was a team member of SALT, a leadership training program for deacons from 1972 to 1980.

"We had seven deacons in a row ordained at St. Andrew's," he said. "Each one was a special individual and we learned a lot from all of them. It was a great experience."

He noted that he and other priests his age served both before and after the Second Vatican Council — including his retired brother-priest, Father Charles Dollen of California.

"We never could have foreseen the

tremendous changes over those years," he said. "Most of them I like. The Mass, the sacraments in the vernacular make more sense to the people receiving them, the anointing of the sick."

Father Dollen has conducted tours to Ireland, Poland, Canadian shrines, Rome and Medjugorje, and hopes to travel during his retirement — perhaps through the Canadian Rockies, to Alaska and the Panama Canal.

St. Christopher will hold a picnic celebration in honor of Father Dollen after its 11:30 a.m. Mass Sunday, June 28. St. John's has invited Father Dollen to its annual September picnic, where that parish also will recognize his retiring.

The priest said he will continue to be caretaker for his mother, Cecilia Dollen Kelly, 96, a pioneer of St. Christopher's Parish, and share a home with her.

"I'm sure she's looking forward to it," he said, adding with a smile, "Maybe she'll get back to daily Mass."

—Kathleen Schwarz

Father Connor's plan: Don't make any definite plans

After serious and considered reflection, Father Gerald T. Connor said his retirement at the end of June can only mean one thing — it's time to goof off!

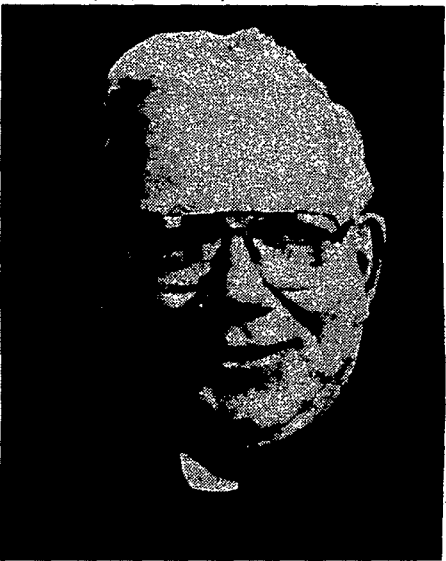
"I'm trying to stay away from making too many commitments," said Father Connor, currently serving as pastor of St. Pius the Tenth Church in Chili. "I'm definitely staying away from an ongoing commitment."

That doesn't mean he'll just play golf and visit friends — although those two activities are, certainly on his post-retirement "To Do" list.

But it does mean he wants time to relax and pursue the kind of leisurely delights few priests can afford when working full-time, Father Connor commented.

The priest will celebrate his retirement with a 2 p.m. Mass at St. Pius on June 7, followed by a dinner at the The Party House, 677 Beahan Road, Gates.

Once he leaves St. Pius, Father Connor plans to live at St. Theodore's Church in



Gates where he'll assist by carrying out sacramental duties. He says he doesn't want to spread himself too thin by traveling throughout the diocese, saying Mass

es here and there.

"I'm hoping to assist at just one parish so that I can develop a relationship with the people," Father Connor said.

The Rochester native, who will turn 70 July 2, was ordained a priest by Bishop James E. Kearney on June 5, 1954, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester.

After ordination, he served as assistant pastor at the following parishes: St. Monica's, Rochester, from 1954 to 1958; St. Alphonsus, Auburn, from 1958 to 1964; St. Ann's, Hornell, from 1964 to 1968; and St. Joseph's, Penfield, from 1968 to 1971.

In 1971, he was named spiritual director of Becket Hall in Rochester and diocesan vocations director, positions he held until 1977 when he went to St. Pius. Although he enjoyed his work as an administrator, he said his real heart has always been in parish work.

"When I finished at Becket Hall, I thought 'I've done my 'spiritual work,'

now let me go to my parish work," he recalled.

Parish work has allowed him to celebrate people's marriages and hold their hands through such tragedies as suicides, he said. Priests bring a certain concerned objectivity to people's lives, standing outside their circles of concern yet able to offer useful insights when needed, he noted.

"Hopefully, people trust us (priests)," he said. "Therefore, they can count on you in a different way than anyone else."

Father Connor said he had no complaints about his years as a priest, finding it a fulfilling lifestyle.

"You're involved in peoples' lives in an ongoing way, the good and the bad," he said. "When you come down to it, one of the principal purposes of celibacy is to leave you free to be open to many people, and not just a few."

—Rob Cullivan

Father Rosse to retire from longtime pastorate

Father John V. Rosse hasn't done much shifting around in the past four decades. He has served as pastor at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Greece since 1983, and was chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester for 24 years before that.

And even though he is retiring from Holy Name this year, the 69-year-old priest still won't move that quickly: He plans to stay on through the end of the summer until Holy Name's newly named priest administrator, Father Charlie Manning, returns from his sabbatical.

Father Rosse was born in Irondequoit and grew up in St. Thomas the Apostle Parish. He was ordained June 5, 1954, by Bishop James E. Kearney.

He then became assistant pastor at St. Mary's, Canandaigua (1954-58); St. Aloysius, Auburn (1958); and St. Andrew's, Rochester (1958-59). While at St. Aloysius, Father Rosse was also chaplain at Auburn Correctional Facility.

In the winter of 1959, Father Rosse began his lengthy tenure at St. Mary's Hospital. He also taught several courses at the hospital's School of Nursing while stationed there.

"I liked hospital work very much. It's very fulfilling," Father Rosse said. "You feel that you can help people out at a very critical time of their lives; you feel you're really doing the work of the Lord."

Father Rosse began his first — and only — pastorate when he arrived at Holy Name of Jesus 15 years ago. Under his leadership, a new parish center was opened in 1989.

As much as he had enjoyed his hospital chaplaincy, Father Rosse said he experienced a different kind of fulfillment at Holy Name.

"The parish experience is a little more stable. You form lasting relationships," Father Rosse said. "The past 15 years have really been very, very satisfying for me."

Father Rosse is also diocesan coordi-

nator for the Monroe County Northwest Region. In addition, he serves on the diocesan Priest Personnel Board as well as the Building Commission.

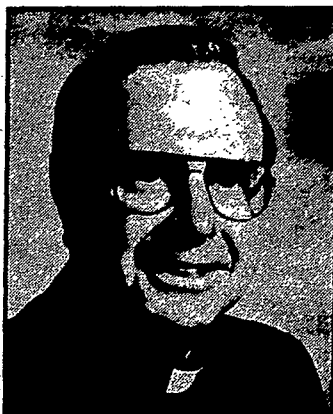
In retirement, Father Rosse plans to reside at St. Margaret Mary Church in his hometown of Irondequoit.

A retirement celebration for Father Rosse is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 28, at the Mapledale Party House in Rochester.

—Mike Latona



Thank You Fr. Paul Schnacky



for 19 years of loving,
caring, faith-filled service
to your parish family at
St. Joseph's-in-Wayland

Best Wishes in Your Retirement

Catholic Courier Online

<http://www.catholiccourier.com>