

## Retired priest enjoys leisure

Since his retirement in 1995, Father James J. Marvin has resided in his home on Honeoye Lake, where he said he spends his time gardening and entertaining friends.

To keep his body in shape, he walks three miles a day, and to keep his vocation in shape, he hosts weekly gatherings of diocesan priests at his home.

"We share our theology and our church vision, and it helps us to grow," Father Marvin said. "It keeps us open."

Father Marvin also hosts a group of lay Catholic friends called the "Jasmars," a play on his own name, monthly at his house. He said he recently returned from a trip with them to the southwestern United States. He added that the group plans to tour the southern United States next, and take a Caribbean cruise. Socializing with the group, whom he's known for decades, is one of his favorite pleasures, he noted.

"They keep me honest," he said.

Father Marvin assists on weekends at St. Patrick's Church in Victor, and is an appointed member of the Diocesan Priests Council. Father Marvin is also among the diocesan priests commissioned to celebrate confirmations.

"I play bishop without anybody getting mad at me," Father Marvin said jokingly.

A native of Macedon, Father Marvin was ordained by Bishop James E. Kearney on June 4, 1948, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester. He served as assistant pastor at the following churches: St. James, Waverly, from 1948 to 1951; Holy Rosary, Rochester, from 1951 to 1956; and St. Andrew's, Rochester, from 1962 to 1967.

Father Marvin was named pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Wayland in 1967, a position he held until 1971. That year, he became pastor of St. Ambrose Church in Irondequoit, a position he held until his retirement three years ago.

Father Marvin said he plans to celebrate his 50th year as a priest on June 14 with a private Mass and dinner with friends and fellow clergymen.

As he reflected on his golden jubilee, Father Marvin noted that the priesthood had changed much since he was ordained. He recalled priests in the 1940s being almost "cultic" figures in the church. Such an image no longer applies to how people think of Catholic priests, he said.

"He's no longer isolated from the people," Father Marvin said. "He isn't up there and people down there. He's a fellow pilgrim, a fellow traveler."

- Rob Cullivan

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Travel & Summer  
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In the issue of May 14**

## Priest serves Lithuanian parish

Father Dominic F. Mockevicius allegedly retired in 1995, but you'd never know it from his busy schedule as co-administrator of St. George's Church in Rochester, spiritual home to the diocese's Lithuanian community.

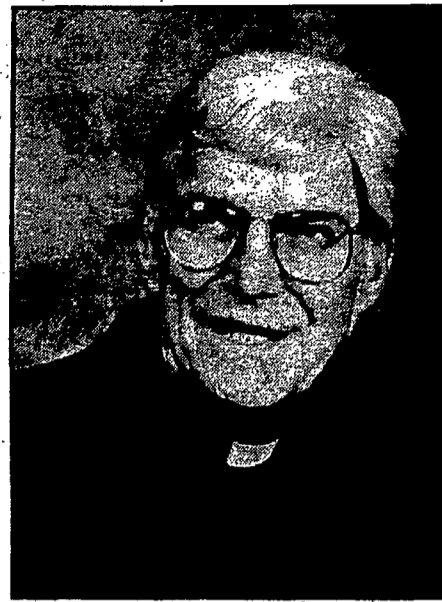
The 75-year-old priest runs the parish with his older brother, Father Charles Mockevicius. The sibling clerics share daily and weekend Mass duties as well as other sacramental celebrations for almost 200 parish families.

"I enjoy doing it only because if Father Charles and I didn't do it, it'd be very difficult to get a Lithuanian priest," Father Mockevicius said. "God knows what he's doing in our retirement because he wants us here."

Father Mockevicius grew up attending St. George's, which will mark its 90th year in October. The priest said the parish has served as a community center for Lithuanian immigrants and their families, and has helped families from Lithuania's Baltic neighbors, Estonia and Latvia. The parish regularly organizes shipments of medicines and other material items to all three countries, he noted.

He added that his parishioners have taken a keen interest in helping Lithuania since the Soviet Union withdrew from there in the early 1990s. The priest has traveled to Lithuania twice — once in 1974 when it was still occupied by the Soviets, and again in 1994, three years after it had regained its independence.

Catholicism was somewhat weak-



ened under Soviet rule, he said, noting that many young people were indoctrinated with atheism.

"It's going to take time for the faith to be built up again," he said.

Then again, he recalled that many older Lithuanians held onto their faith during communist rule, and that he knew of several young families who were choosing to raise their children in the Catholic faith.

A son of Lithuanian immigrants himself, Father Mockevicius was ordained by Bishop James E. Kearney on June 4, 1948, at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Following ordination, he served as assistant pastor at the following

Rochester churches: St. Boniface from 1948 to 1950; St. George's from 1950 to 1956; Mount Carmel from 1956 to 1958; and Holy Family from 1958 to 1961.

Father Mockevicius was named administrator of St. Patrick's Church, Cato, and St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Red Creek, in February 1961, and held that position until June 1961, when he was appointed as temporary assistant pastor at St. Alphonsus Church in Auburn. In September of that year, he was named assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church in Canandaigua.

In 1962, Father Mockevicius was named chaplain at Craig State School in Sonyea, a school for adults and children with development disabilities. He also assisted at area parishes, he said. He held that chaplain position until 1983, when he was named pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Church in Churchville. He stayed there until 1994, when he joined his brother at St. George's.

Father Mockevicius said he and his brother work well together because they share a love for the church. He added that he had no regrets about his 50 years as a priest, finding it a life that suited his nature.

"God is the center of my life," the priest said. "Because of that being the center, (the priesthood) wasn't just the Mass and the sacraments. It was being there for the people."

- Rob Cullivan

## Father Burns marks 65 'joyful' years

At the time of his ordination, Father William A. Burns recalled, he planned to be strictly a parish priest. Instead, he spent more than two decades as a teacher and school administrator.

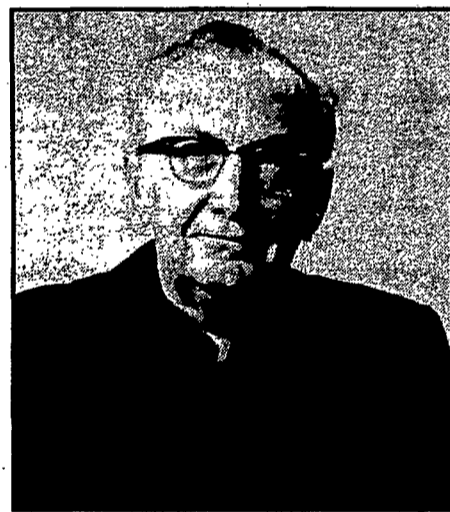
And he was only supposed to fill in briefly as pastor of St. Anthony's Church in Elmira — but he stayed on the job for 24 years.

In neither case, Father Burns emphasized, was he disappointed in these unexpected outcomes.

"The old story is that if you get what you want, you might be disappointed," Father Burns remarked. "And if you get what you don't want, you might enjoy it."

Father Burns, 90, is celebrating his 65th anniversary as a diocesan priest this year. He was ordained June 10, 1933, at the former St. Patrick's Cathedral by Bishop Emmett Walsh of South Carolina.

Father Burns was born in Kansas City, Mo., but spent most of his childhood in Elmira. Following ordination, his first assignment was as assistant pastor at St. Monica's Church in Rochester (1933-35). He then taught in 1935 and 1936 at



Aquinas Institute.

"The students were a joy to be with, and the summers weren't bad either," he joked. "I became a convert to teaching."

In 1936, Father Burns moved permanently to the Southern Tier when he became vice-principal at Elmira Catholic High School. He stepped into the role of principal in 1938, and held that position

for the next 15 years.

Father Burns became pastor at St. Anthony's in Elmira in 1953, and also taught Christian ethics at Elmira College early in his pastorate. Quite surprisingly, he said, he remained in the predominately Italian-American parish until his retirement.

"I was told to take it for a couple years because they wanted to train an Italian priest for it. But I was not unfamiliar to the Elmira area, and I was welcomed with that same warm-hearted Italian flavor. They changed my name to Father Bruno," he recalled with a chuckle. "It was a spiritual joy ride for the next 24 years."

While at St. Anthony's, Father Burns was also longtime chaplain for both the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Daughters of America in Elmira.

Father Burns retired to Ss. Peter and Paul Church in Elmira in 1977. He moved to his current residence, at St. James Church in Waverly, in 1981. Aside from some walking difficulties in the past year, Father Burns reported that he's in good health. He will turn 91 on Aug. 11.

- Mike Latona

## Brother

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Salvador and Guatemala, he said.

Brother Ruberte noted that the city is home to several parishes that serve Hispanics. Rochester churches serving Hispanics include St. Michael's (located next to his field office), Mount Carmel, Holy Redeemer/St. Francis Xavier, Corpus Christi and St. Francis of Assisi, he said.

He added that other diocesan churches outside Rochester serve Spanish-speaking Catholics, many of whom are migrant workers. Such churches include Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Brockport, St. Francis de Sales in Geneva, St. Michael's in Newark, St. Michael's in Penn Yan, and Our Lady of the Lake in Sodus. As director of the Spanish Apostolate,

Brother Ruberte said he was particularly fulfilled by his work with the pastors and staff of these churches. He meets monthly with all parish pastoral staff in the diocese who serve Hispanics, he said. He added his office was able to persuade parishes in areas with many Hispanic migrant workers to chip in along with his office and pay the salaries of four apostolate field representatives currently working with migrants.

Brother Ruberte also noted that during his tenure, his office has created a number of programs. Such programs include regularly scheduled family retreats; parish missions; a Rochester-area Spanish language radio program; a Spanish library located beneath his second-floor office; and lay leadership formation programs.

Brother Ruberte commented that his

field office on North Clinton Avenue serves as a community center for various neighborhood groups that regularly meet there. The apostolate also serves Spanish-speaking residents who need links to local social agencies or who need to contact officials in Puerto Rico or in Latin America, according to information he provided.

When he returns to Puerto Rico, Brother Ruberte said he may help train candidates for membership in his order, and preach in local parishes. In fact, it was preaching by brothers and sisters in his future order that inspired him to follow his vocation, he said.

"When I was a boy, some of the brothers came to my neighborhood to preach," he recalled. "In that time, it was only the priest who was supposed to preach. But I saw women preach and men preach. I saw that I can be a brother."