

Palmyra man returns to celebrate ordination

When asked, many priests are able to cite the lives of other priests as helping to inspire them to respond to God's call.

Father William L. Wizeman, SJ, looks back to the death of two popes as what prompted him to become a priest.

"When Pope Paul (VI) died, John Paul (I) died (in 1978), that was one of the things that triggered it," the Palmyra native noted on a recent visit home to celebrate his August ordination.

"I never really thought too much about my religion," he continued. But the news accounts of their deaths — and lives — spurred him to consider his faith.

"When that happened, I read the Gospels, and that's when it happened," he said.

The path to the priesthood begun by those events culminated in his ordination as a Jesuit priest Aug. 1 at St. Ignatius Loyola Church in New York City.

The son of Joseph and Nancy Wizeman of the Catholic Communities of St. Anne & St. Gregory, Father Wizeman celebrated a Mass of thanksgiving at St. Anne Church Aug. 9, and is scheduled to celebrate Masses for the cluster during the next two weeks. He will then return to Oxford, England, to complete a doctorate in church history.

After he received his initial inspiration in 1978 at age 14, Father Wizeman went on to earn a bachelor's degree in theolo-

gy from Fordham University in 1986. He then entered the diocesan discernment program at Becket Hall. While there, he met James Coughlin — now Father James Coughlin, SJ — of St. James Parish, Rochester, who planned to study with the Jesuits.

The two talked, and Father Wizeman became interested in the congregation.

"The biggest thing was really community life," Father Wizeman recalled.

In the years since, he has been involved in a variety of ministries, such as serving as chaplain at a hospice and at a hospital, and working in a parish in Benin, Nigeria. He also began to teach, first in Buffalo, then in New York City. It was at Loyola School in New York that he discovered the direction his ministry would take.

"I found I really liked teaching," he said. "I really enjoyed working with students."

He now holds a master of divinity degree from the Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass., and this summer completed a master of theology degree at Oxford.

Father Wizeman said he was glad to serve briefly at his home parish this summer following his ordination, as the community has been supportive of him.

"They've been praying for me since 1987 since I entered the society," he said.

— Lee Strong



Good old days

Tony Pallotti, left, a former altar boy and a member of St. Michael's Parish, Lyons, for 70-plus years, points out himself and old friends in a photograph to Brian Keysor at an Aug. 2 picnic to mark St. Michael's 150th anniversary. More than 300 people attended the picnic, which, coupled with a Mass earlier the same day, concluded the anniversary celebrations.

Diocese hires new TGA director

Jennifer K. Myszka, former director of annual giving at the State University College at Geneseo, has been hired as director of annual giving for the Diocese of Rochester.

She replaces Tom D'Agostino, who left the diocesan position in July to become director of development for the School of the Holy Childhood in Rochester.

Myszka, 26, graduated from Geneseo in 1994 with a bachelor's degree in English. Following graduation, she worked as a fundraising campaign assistant for three years at the school until she was named director of annual giving last year. As director, she oversaw a campaign that raised \$1 million for Geneseo, she said.

Currently a Brighton resident, Myszka attends Blessed Sacrament Church in Rochester. Myszka grew up in Tonawanda and was a parishioner at St. Andrew's Church there, she said.

On her first day as director, Aug. 10, Myszka told the *Catholic Courier* that she was looking forward to her primary duty of overseeing the annual Diocesan Thanks Giving Appeal. The TGA is the diocese's major source of funding for administra-



tive operations. The 1997/89 appeal raised a record \$5 million from 55,000 donors.

Myszka said she had no plans to make any major changes in the

campaign in her first year.

"It's very mature, very successful," she said of the Thanks Giving Appeal. "Why ruin a good thing?"

Richard Rosati, diocesan director of development since June 1, was a colleague of Myszka's at Geneseo where he served as vice president for college relations and development until his hiring by the diocese.

"Jennifer is an enthusiastic and knowledgeable fundraising professional with a strong commitment to the church," he said in a diocesan press release. "I look forward to working closely with her as an integral member of our development team."

— Rob Cullivan

Recognizing

★ Christine Bochen, chairperson of the religious studies department at Rochester's Nazareth College, won a third-place award in the Catholic Press Association's history/biography books category as editor of *Learning to Love: The Journals of Thomas Merton (Volume Six 1966-1967)*. The award was announced June 5 at the CPA convention in New Orleans.

★ The Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir performed May 25 at the Cathedral of St. Charles Borromeo in Joliet, Quebec, at a Mass for the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher. The performance was part of the pilgrimage the choir made to Montreal May 22-25.

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