

DIOCESAN NEWS

Father Callan will serve temporarily in Elmira

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Father James B. Callan, controversial former administrator of Rochester's Corpus Christi Church, has been temporarily reassigned as a resident priest at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Elmira.

The assignment will last between two and three months and begins Friday, Sept. 11, according to Elizabeth Brown, diocesan director of communications. No future assignment has yet been determined, Brown noted.

Meanwhile, Corpus staff members were slated to meet with diocesan officials on Wednesday, Sept. 9, to discuss the future of the parish. No priest had yet been assigned to the parish as of the *Catholic Courier's* Tuesday, Sept. 8 deadline.

Our Lady of Lourdes recently suffered the loss of its pastor, Father Paul J. McCabe, who died Aug. 25. Sister M. Raymond Joseph Griffin, RSM, pastoral associate at Our Lady of Lourdes, is currently serving as the parish's temporary administrator.

Sister Griffin said the parish would welcome Father Callan despite the recent turmoil over his removal from Corpus by Bishop Matthew H. Clark for public defiance of certain church laws.

"My whole approach to this is what he has done is none of our beeswax," Sister Griffin told the *Courier* in a phone interview from Elmira. "He's probably hurting, and so are we with the loss of our pastor. Maybe we can help each other."

Father McCabe had, before his sudden death, actually invited Father Callan to serve at the parish, according to both Father Callan and Sister Griffin. When it



Bill Hawken

Angle and J.D. Brown and their 15-month-old son, Jack, worship during Father James Callan's final Mass at Corpus Christi Church Sept. 6.

was made public that Bishop Clark had removed Father Callan from Corpus Christi, Father Callan said Father McCabe called him and told him he was welcome to fulfill any temporary reassignment at Our Lady of Lourdes.

Father Callan's reassignment to Elmira comes following his removal last month from Corpus Christi by Bishop Clark. The bishop has cited the priest's ongoing defiance of church law regarding women's liturgical roles, ministry to homosexuals and intercommunion with non-Catholics to justify removing him.

In public statements, Father Callan has claimed the Vatican pressured the bishop to remove him, but Bishop Clark has

maintained the decision was solely his own.

Father Callan, administrator of Corpus for 22 years, said goodbye to his parishioners at crowded weekend Masses on Saturday, Sept. 5 and Sept. 6. Prior to his final 11:30 a.m. Sunday Mass as administrator of the church, Father Callan told the *Courier* his mood was upbeat.

"I'm feeling buoyed up by the spirit of the congregation because they're definitely committed to end discrimination in our church," he said.

During his homily at the 11:30 a.m. Mass, Father Callan reiterated his belief in the stands that got him in trouble in the first place, but insisted he was still loyal to

Rome.

"The pope is my father," Father Callan said. "However, there is a blind spot in the Vatican. There is discrimination, and where there is discrimination, you can't be silent."

Rochester Mayor William A. Johnson, Jr., made an appearance at the 11:30 a.m. Mass to express his gratitude to Father Callan and the parish for its outreach work in the city.

"Without this church, I don't know where we would be in this community because you fill so many voids," Johnson said.

The mayor added that he did not want to involve himself in a Catholic Church dispute.

"I find myself torn because there are no two people I respect more than Jim Callan and Matt Clark," the mayor said of the priest and the bishop.

A standing ovation greeted the mayor when he said, "Wherever they send you, Jim, give 'em hell!"

After Mass, Mary Ramerman, pastoral associate at Corpus, said the diocese had not yet told her or any parish staff members what modifications they must make to conform with church law. On Sunday, Ramerman held up the chalice during the consecration, and wore a half-stole — which she referred to as a "banner" — that was given to her by the parish on her alb. Both practices were among those that Father Callan has claimed drew the Vatican's attention to Corpus Christi.

Ramerman told the *Courier* that she held firm in her position that she would not remove the banner.

"I don't know how that would happen without saying to women 'You're not valuable,'" she said.

New principals begin 1998-99 school year

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

As the 1998-99 school year gets underway, 11 principals are beginning new positions in diocesan Catholic elementary and junior high schools.

They are, in alphabetical order:

Tom Bahr, who replaces **Norman Fagnan** at St. Andrew's School, Rochester. Bahr had taught at St. John the Evangelist, Spencerport, since 1994. He earned his master's degree in education from SUNY College at Brockport and administration certification from the University of the State of New York.

Linda Boone, who replaces **Chris Meagher** at St. John the Evangelist School, Spencerport. Boone had taught at Nativity School, Brockport, the previous 11 years. She earned her master's degree in education from SUNY Brockport and administration certification from the University of Rochester.

Mary Caffrey, who replaces **Sister Walter Anne O'Malley, SSJ**, at St. Joseph's School, Auburn. Caffrey had been diocesan assistant superintendent of assessment and staff development since 1995. She earned her master's degree in education from Nazareth College and administration certification from SUNY Brockport.

Mary Dayton, who replaces **Marilyn Reeves, SFCC**, at Holy Cross School, Rochester. Dayton had taught at Holy Cross since 1988. She earned her master's degree

in education from Nazareth College and is working toward her administration certification at the University of Rochester.

Rose Ann Ewanyk, co-principal with Marilyn Zinn at All Saints Academy, Corning. She had been interim principal since January 1998, replacing **Vincent Moschetti**. She earned her master's degree in education from Elmira College and is working toward her administration certification at SUNY Cortland.

Norman Fagnan, who replaces **Joseph Holleran** at Northeastern Catholic Junior High School, Irondequoit. Fagnan had been principal at St. Andrew's School, Rochester, for one year, 1997-98. He received his master's degree in education, as well as administration certification, from SUNY Buffalo.

Father Joseph Grasso, C.P.P.S. who replaces **Steve Schockow** at Siena Catholic Academy, Brighton. He had taught from 1995-98 at Bishop Kearney High School. He earned his master's degree in education from SUNY Oswego and administration certification from Syracuse University.

Joseph Holleran, who replaces **Sister Diane Dennie, SSJ**, at St. Lawrence School, Greece. Holleran had been principal at Northeastern Catholic Junior High, Irondequoit, since 1994. He earned his master's degree in education from Nazareth College and administration certification from the University of Rochester.

Chris Meagher, who replaces **Mary Lou Kime** at Holy Trinity School, Web-

ster. He had been principal at St. John the Evangelist, Spencerport, the previous five years. He received his master's degree in education from Nazareth College and administration certification from the University of Rochester.

Mary Beth Napier, who replaces **Carol Robinson** at St. Helen's School, Gates. Napier had taught since 1990 at St. Helen's. She received her master's degree in education and administration certification from SUNY Brockport.

Marilyn Zinn, who is co-principal at All Saints Academy, Corning with Rose Ann Ewanyk. Zinn served the past 12 years as a teacher in the Holy Family School System in Elmira. Zinn earned her master's degree in education from Elmira College and will begin work on her administration certification in January, 1999.

In addition, **Patricia Jones** replaces Caffrey as diocesan assistant superintendent of assessment and staff development. She had been academic program director at Bryant and Stratton the past two years. Jones earned her master's degree in education from Nazareth College.

Also, **Susan Pennington Sak** is the new director at the Guardian Angels Early Childhood Center, Henrietta. She had served as pre-K and kindergarten coordinator at Holy Family School, Rochester, from 1987-98. She earned her master's degree in education from Nazareth College.

Thoughts to Consider



EDWIN SULEWSKI

Funeral Director

How can I help someone who is grieving?

You can help in a number of special ways. Through reaching out and offering support in the form of listening and presence you will help a great deal. Ask your friend how they are doing. Mention the deceased by name and allow the bereaved to continue discussion about the deceased if they wish. Many bereaved report feeling isolated. You can help by including them in your social groups. Contact with the grieving is most important during the period right after the death and in the three or four months following when the bereaved feel especially isolated. Reach out and make your presence felt.

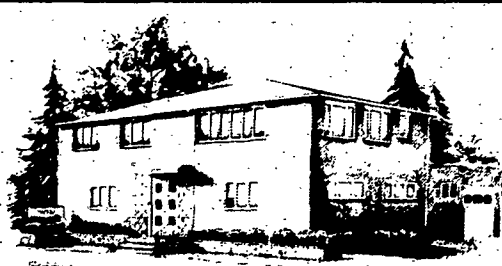
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