

DIOCESAN NEWS

Greece native to be ordained Precious Blood priest July 3

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Nearly two decades ago, when Deacon Sam D'Angelo was a teenage altar server at St. Mark's Church in Greece, Father Joseph Donovan asked him when he was going to enter the seminary.

"He was the one who planted the seed," Deacon D'Angelo said of St. Mark's founding pastor.

Deacon D'Angelo will return to St. Mark's Saturday, July 3, to be ordained a priest in the Missionaries of the Precious Blood order.

Archbishop Terrence Prendergast, SJ, of Halifax, Nova Scotia, will perform the ordination during an 11 a.m. liturgy. Archbishop Prendergast, a longtime friend of Deacon D'Angelo's, also ordained him as a transitional deacon in January.

Deacon D'Angelo will then celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving 10 a.m. Sunday, July 4. Refreshments will be served in the church hall following both the Saturday and Sunday Masses.

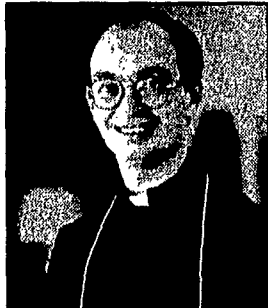
Deacon D'Angelo, 31, is a 1986 graduate of Greece Athena High School. His father, Louis, has been principal at Bishop Kearney High School since 1996.

Deacon D'Angelo received his bachelor's degree in biology from John Carroll University and attended one year of graduate school at the University of Dayton. He then resided at Rochester's Becket Hall — a residential center for men considering priest vocations — for one year, and worked as a lab technician for the next three years.

In 1994, Deacon D'Angelo began studying for the priesthood. He received his master's degree in divinity in November 1998 from Regis College in Toronto. A month later he joined the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, and one month after that was ordained a transitional deacon.

Deacon D'Angelo said that he's glad he waited a few years before pursuing the priesthood.

"It's much more to your advantage to have a life experience. If you don't, you might detach yourself," he said. "I guess I'm



Deacon Sam D'Angelo

just very grateful I've had all the experiences I've had. They've all led me to where I am today."

Deacon D'Angelo added that the idea of a priestly vocation stuck with him over the years, thanks to the examples set by Father Donovan and other priests at St. Mark's.

"The priests I grew up with were very happy priests," Deacon D'Angelo said.

Once ordained, Deacon D'Angelo will become the youngest priest in the Missionaries of the Precious Blood's 21-member Atlantic Province. Based in Niagara Falls, Ontario, it covers the United States' east coast as well as all of Canada. Two priests from the province serve in the Rochester Diocese: Father John Colacino, C.P.P.S., an instructor at St. Bernard's Institute; and Father Joseph Grasso, C.P.P.S., principal of Siena Catholic Academy in Brighton.

Deacon D'Angelo said he favored joining a religious order over becoming a diocesan priest in part because he didn't like the prospect of living in a rectory with few or no other priests.

"Community life is more for me; I felt more at home," Deacon D'Angelo said. "I really feel I have a strong calling to this community."

Deacon D'Angelo said he was also drawn to the theme of reconciliation on which his order was founded.

"The precious blood of Christ was shed to reconcile the world to God," he said.

Though his first-year duties as a Precious Blood priest have not yet been determined, Deacon D'Angelo said he would like to promote his order's missionary work and to lead retreats.

"I want to welcome people from all different backgrounds, including alienated Catholics, and talk about issues in the church," Deacon D'Angelo said.



Greg Francis/Staff photographer

Celebrating 20 years



Above, Bishop Matthew H. Clark celebrates Mass at diocesan Pastoral Office chapel in Gates June 25 to mark the 20th anniversary of his installation as bishop of Rochester. At left, Bishop Clark receives a plant on behalf of the Pastoral Center staff from Barbara Pedeville.

Msgr. Krieg retires; will stay as administrator through December

Msgr. Gerard C. Krieg retired June 29, but he won't be seeking out the ski slopes yet. He has agreed to be administrator for the Roman Catholic Community of Geneva for the rest of the calendar year.

Msgr. Krieg has served as pastor of St. Stephen's Church, Geneva, since 1983. As administrator, he will continue serving St. Stephen's, as well as Geneva's other Catholic parish, St. Francis.

"Being pastor at St. Stephen's so long, there's a danger of St. Francis feeling like a stepchild," he said. "I want to let them know if I am to be administrator for both, I am as much a part of their life as St. Stephen's life. And hopefully they will be as much a part of my life as St. Stephen's."

Msgr. Krieg, 71, grew up in St. Michael's

Parish, Rochester. He was ordained June 6, 1953, by Bishop James Kearney in Sacred Heart Cathedral.

His first assignments as a priest were as assistant pastor at St. Joseph's Church, Wayland 1953-57, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Rochester, 1957-58.

After earning a canon law degree from Catholic University, he became associate pastor of St. Pius X, Chili (1960-61). During that year he also was a defender of the bond — a position he described as being like "a district attorney" — in the diocesan tribunal. From 1961 to 1966 he served as secretary of the tribunal, and from 1966 to 1973 as judicial vicar.

One of his first tasks was to serve as a scribe writing testimony of witnesses in the

inquiry into the beatification of Blessed Grimoaldo Santamaria.

"They sent three handwritten cases to Rome," he said. "I just hope they could read my writing."

As for his other duties, he said: "In the tribunal we tried to keep a pastoral focus so that people didn't become victims of the law, but the law remained a servant of the people. They were extremely interesting times, rather trying times in many ways, because of developments following the Second Vatican Council."

He also dealt with women religious considering changes in their ministries and a number of men who left the priesthood.

During his tribunal service, Msgr. Krieg helped develop a program preparing teens

for marriage. It became a model for programs in dioceses around the country.

He also was instrumental in starting due process, by which complaints could be made to authorities — through a Council of Conciliation, Board of Arbitration and tribunal for adjudication. "Very few cases got to arbitration," he said.

Msgr. Krieg also served as pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Scottsville (1973-83). While there, he served as a vicar for religious.

At St. Stephen's, Msgr. Krieg has coordinated a sister-parish program with St. Stephen's Church in the Diocese of Toronto, Uganda. He has brought in several seminarians and priests who have helped serve and been trained at the parish.

After he retires he will not continue overseeing that program, but said he expects to become involved in the tribunal again and wants to "keep the gray cells busy."

Msgr. Krieg has enjoyed many a February away skiing with Fathers Jim Schwartz, Raymond Booth, Peter Clifford, Robert Kreckel, Thomas Erdle and Winfried Kellner.

"Father Clifford is the token Irishman," he said. "Father Booth is the token Englishman."

Msgr. Krieg plans to move next year to St. Louis Parish in Pittsford, where Father Booth also is retiring and Father Schwartz is pastor.

"I always say when the three of us want to go skiing, Father Schwartz is going to have problems covering," he said.

— Kathleen Schwarz

Obituary

Sister Francis David Backman, SSJ; active in Alabama mission

Sister Francis David Backman, SSJ, who taught for a number of years in both the Rochester Diocese and in Selma, Ala., died June 7, 1999, at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary. She was 87 years old.

A native of Cato, Cayuga County, Sister Francis David entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1931 out of Auburn's St. Alphonsus Church. She graduated from Auburn High School and Nazareth College.

Sister Francis David taught at St. Ambrose, St. Monica and Blessed Sacrament schools in Rochester before starting a ministry at St. Elizabeth Mission in Selma. She served for 14 years there; returned to

Rochester to teach at St. Agnes Convent School; and went back to St. Elizabeth in Selma for another six years.

She later taught at St. Augustine School in Rochester and St. Paul School in Oswego before becoming principal of Ss. Peter and Paul School in Elmira. She then served as pastoral associate at St. Patrick Church in Seneca Falls; as coordinator at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary; as remedial reading teacher at St. Mary's School in Elmira; and at the Einmaus House of Prayer before retiring.

In 1990, Sister Francis David received an honorary doctorate from St. Michael Col-

lege in Burlington, Vt., for her outstanding work in Selma.

Sister Francis David's funeral Mass took place June 10 at the SSJ motherhouse chapel. Interment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

She is survived by a sister, Elvira Jones; sister-in-law, Annie Backman; nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, cousins and her sisters in the Congregation of St. Joseph.

Contributions in Sister Francis David's memory may be made to the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, 4095 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y., 14618-3798.