

DIOCESAN NEWS

Father Conboy takes two new positions

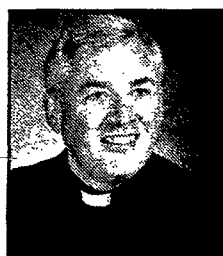
By Mike Latona
Staff Writer

Father Michael F. Conboy, a diocesan priest for 37 years, has been appointed by Bishop Matthew H. Clark as part-time diocesan director of priest personnel.

Concurrent with his duties at the Pastoral Office, Father Conboy has been named by Bishop Clark as pastor of St. Jerome's Church in East Rochester. That position had been vacant since the previous pastor, Father Albert L. Delmonte, went on administrative leave in November.

Father Conboy, who turns 65 on Jan. 7, has been pastor since 1996 at the Corning-Painted Post Roman Catholic Community, where he will say his final Masses Jan. 8-9.

His administrative duties in Corning-Painted Post are being covered by Sister Joan Cawley, SSJ, who has been pastoral associate for the four-church cluster. Sister Cawley told the *Catholic Courier* Jan. 4 that new priest staffing there had not yet been determined. The cluster's only resident priest is Father Francis R. Davis, who is re-



tired. Along with Father Conboy's departure, the parish lost its parochial vicar in November when Father Michael R. Brown became pastor at the Catholic Community of St. Morris and Nunda. His position, also, has remained unfilled.

In a Dec. 13, 1999, letter announcing Father Conboy's appointment as priest personnel director, Bishop Clark noted Father Conboy's considerable administrative experience as secretary to Bishop Joseph L. Hogan from 1969-78, and as pastor of four parishes. In addition to Corning-Painted Post, Father Conboy was pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Seneca Falls (1978-84), St. Margaret Mary Church in Irondequoit (1984-91) and St. Joseph's Church in Penfield (1991-96).

"Moreover, he brings to this office wide knowledge of the diocese, boundless energy, a willing spirit and much good hu-

mor," Bishop Clark added.

Father Conboy had been acting chair of the Priests' Personnel Board since Father Robert P. Ring, former director of priest personnel, became pastor at St. Margaret Mary Church in Apalachin in July 1999.

Father Conboy told the *Courier* that while he is excited about becoming the priest personnel director, he will face challenges due to the priest shortage.

"We're living in some difficult times," he said. "We're short numbers-wise, and we're an older group. How we can best serve the people of the diocese, we might have to take some right-hand turns and do business differently."

Father Conboy himself is an example of these staffing shifts. His immediate predecessors in priest personnel and at St. Jerome's had each served full-time.

Father Conboy added that he plans to get tips on balancing his workload from Father John M. Mulligan, who also combines a pastorate — Rochester's Most Precious Blood — and a diocesan administrative position, as a vicar general.

Obituaries

Fr. Joseph Egan, 82; professor, pastor

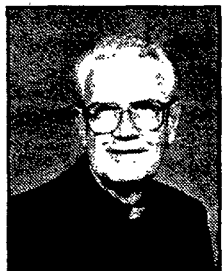
Father Joseph M. Egan "led a full life," according to longtime friend Jean Hurley.

The priest assisted at four Elmira parishes; was chaplain at a nursing home and a monastery; and wrote books. All that came after Father Egan had served for 23 years as a professor at St. Bernard's Seminary.

However, his pace was slowed after he fell and broke his hip in January 1999. He developed pneumonia in November and died Dec. 20, 1999, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira. He was 82.

Father Egan grew up in St. Mary Our Mother Parish in Horseheads. He was ordained in 1942 by Bishop James E. Kearney. After receiving a doctorate degree in theology from Sacred Heart Seminary in Chicago, Father Egan began his tenure at St. Bernard's Seminary, which he had also attended. He served as professor of dogmatic theology from 1943-66.

In 1966 he returned to the Southern Tier for good when he became pastor at St. Patrick's Church in Elmira. He resigned in



1977 to care for his mother, and served as part-time associate pastor for the next four years at St. Mary's Church in Elmira. Also in 1977, Father Egan began as chaplain of Chemung County Nursing Facility, a position he retained for the rest of his life.

He was assisting priest at St. Casimir's Church in Elmira from 1981-94, and assisted at yet another Elmira parish, Our Lady of Lourdes, from 1994 until his death. In addition, he became chaplain at the Dominican Monastery in Elmira in 1996.

For the last several years, Father Egan lived at his family homestead in Horseheads. There, Jean Hurley said, he enjoyed reading and writing. She said that he wrote a prayer book, *Alleluia*, and was also nearing completion on another book, *The Fullness of Time: Essays in Biblical Chronology*. In

addition, he made tapes on such subjects as marriage and the Gospel of John.

But in public, Hurley said, Father Egan never flaunted his scholarly background.

"He didn't portray himself as the intellectual he was," said Hurley, an Our Lady of Lourdes parishioner.

"He was just a priestly priest," added Sister M. Raymond Joseph Griffin, RSM, pastoral associate at Our Lady of Lourdes. "He was always a dignified and caring person."

Bishop Matthew H. Clark celebrated Father Egan's funeral Mass Dec. 24 at Our Lady of Lourdes. Interment was at St. Rose Cemetery in Lima.

Father Egan is survived by one aunt, several cousins and many close friends. Donations in his memory may be made to Notre Dame High School 1400 Maple Ave., Elmira, 14904; the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation, 200 Madison Ave., Suite I-C, Elmira, 14901; or Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 304 Demarest Pkwy., Elmira, 14905.

—Mike Latona

Father Raymond Wahl; founded Sacred Heart parish

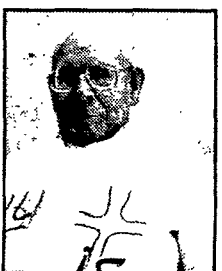
Father Raymond J. Wahl, 87, founding pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Auburn, died Dec. 24, 1999, at St. Joseph's Convalescent Infirmary.

The Rochester native grew up in St. Boniface Parish. After his ordination June 4, 1937, he served as assistant pastor at Auburn's St. Alphonsus Church and at Holy Family, Sacred Heart and Holy Redeemer churches, all in Rochester.

In 1956 he was appointed pastor of Sacred Heart in Auburn. He oversaw the building of the parish's school, rectory, convent and church, and retired in 1982.

According to his longtime friend Father George Wiant, generations of parishioners will remember picnics at their former pastor's cabin in Bristol Hills, where he taught young ones to ride horseback. For years, such gatherings were a part of his ministry, Father Wiant noted.

"You were just bathed in the warmth of him as a person," he said. "Whenever you



met him, you were accepted, welcomed and valued by him."

As a pastor in Auburn, if Father Wahl learned a child in his parish had access to a barn, he would buy the child a horse, said Father Wiant, whose first assignment was Sacred Heart.

Father Wahl was joyful, Father Wiant said in his homily at the priest's funeral Mass Dec. 29. "There was a depth to his joy that was beyond excitement," he said, adding that Father Wahl found joy in life even after a stroke 11 years ago.

Vince De Witt, Sacred Heart's former director of religious education, recalled that Father Wahl held weekly luncheons for priests and that 20-30 often attended.

"Most importantly, for guys who lived alone, it was an opportunity to get to-

gether and have someone to visit with," De Witt said. "He was an extremely thoughtful guy."

He leaves a parish still greatly energized by his leadership, according to Father Paul Brennan, Sacred Heart pastor.

"His spirit will pervade this place for many, many years to come," he said.

Father Wiant recalled that at a retirement celebration in Auburn, dignitaries described the priest in glowing terms and presented plaques and other tributes.

"He would turn and give them to me and whisper, 'Who are they talking about?'" Father Wiant recalled adding, "It wasn't just a jocose remark."

Bishop Matthew H. Clark celebrated Father Wahl's funeral Mass at Sacred Heart; interment was in St. Joseph's Cemetery. Survivors include a brother, Robert, of St. Petersburg Beach, Fla., and several nieces and nephews.

—Kathleen Schwarz

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Principal due to step down this summer

By Rob Cullivan
Staff Writer

Franklin E. Kamp, principal of McQuaid Jesuit High School in Rochester, has announced that he will resign his position June 30.

Kamp, principal since 1991, made his announcement at a meeting of the school's board of trustees Dec. 13.

Before becoming principal, Kamp served as McQuaid's assistant principal for curriculum and instruction for 20 years, and also taught English and history. He was the first layperson to hold the position of principal at McQuaid, a Jesuit school for boys in grades seven-12.

Kamp declined interview requests, but outlined the reasons for his decision in a letter to parents.

"After 29 years at McQuaid and 11 prior years in teaching and administration elsewhere, I believe the time is right to turn my work over to another," he wrote.

A search committee will form to select a new principal, said Francine Patella Ryan, McQuaid's director of advancement and public relations.

Kamp's colleagues at McQuaid expressed sadness over his decision to resign. In a press statement, Father James J. Fischer, SJ, McQuaid's president, praised Kamp for his contributions to the high school.

"We are saddened that we are losing a man who has a deep professional and academic appreciation of the challenge of teaching adolescent boys, a gentlemanly manner in dealing with adults and youths, and who holds an unusually profound grasp of Ignatian ideology and pedagogy that characterize a Jesuit school," the president stated.

Like Father Fischer, Father Leon Hogenkamp, SJ, the school's vice president, expressed regret at Kamp's decision to resign.

"Frank's decision to leave... is a bittersweet moment for me and for the McQuaid family," Father Hogenkamp said.

Gerard Farrell, McQuaid's director of guidance, said Kamp helped develop the school's curriculum, added electives for students and helped to put the school on a good footing for the 21st century.

"I've always had a great respect for him and his knowledge and his ability to make good decisions, and I'm going to miss that," Farrell said.

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