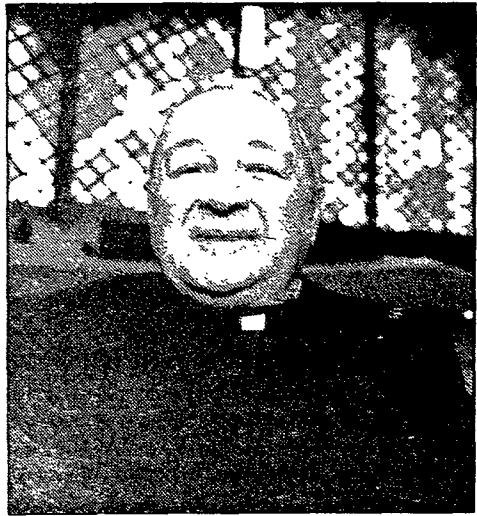


FEATURE



St. John is pride of retiring cleric

Father Joseph E. D'Aurizio retires this year after 44 years of service to the church, including 23 as pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Greece — about 7,500 registered parishioners strong.

"I think we've built up together a strong community at St. John's, and there have been a number of improvements in the buildings, the grounds," he said. He is particularly proud that for more than 15 years the parish has been tithing to other churches and Catholic organizations. The tithing amounts to about \$75,000 a year.

"The parishioners are excellent, they've been very cooperative and they're the ones responsible really for building up the community," Father D'Aurizio said.

Ordained June 9, 1956, the priest served as assistant pastor at Corpus Christi Parish, Rochester (1956-61). He returned to school for two years and received his master's degree in social work from Boston College. He worked for Catholic Charities, first as assistant to the director of Catholic Charities at Catholic Family Center, and also as executive director of Elmira Catholic Family Center. From 1972 to 1977 he was director of Catholic Charities.

During the 1960s and '70s he resided at Corpus Christi, Gate of Heaven Parish in Boston, St. Mary's in Elmira and Holy Rosary and Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester.

For about 35 years Father D'Aurizio, 69, has enjoyed getaways in Puerto Rico with friends who also are priests. He helped arrange for the adoption of a girl they continue to see every year.

"I baptized her and now I've baptized her child, in Puerto Rico," he said.

Father D'Aurizio will move to St. Leo's Church, Hilton, and will continue to help out there and perhaps elsewhere, he said.

St. John's will hold a reception for Father D'Aurizio from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, June 25, at the parish center.

"I hope the people will continue to do the good work they doing, to grow closer to almighty God and one another," he commented.

— Kathleen Schwarz

Fr. Cosgrove pleased with 'choice'

Around the time of his ordination, Father William J. Cosgrove had just completed his licentiate in sacred theology and appeared well on his way to becoming a teacher. But he found himself gravitating toward parish ministry, rather than the academic life.

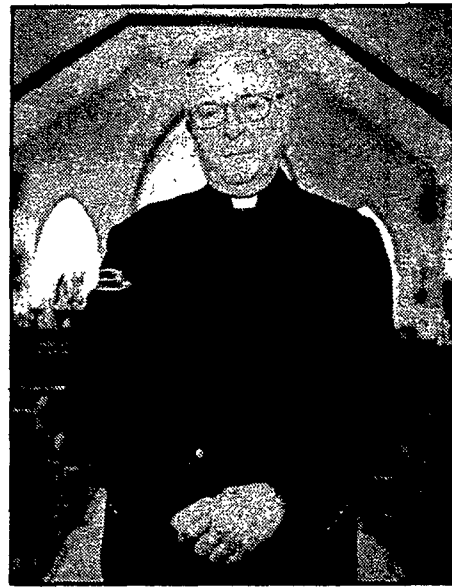
"I guess I made a choice, because I couldn't do both," Father Cosgrove said. "I'm really meant to be a parish priest."

He since has been a stalwart in that role, having served all but two of his 44-plus priestly years in parishes. For the past 17 years he has ministered at St. Dominic's Church in Shortsville. Father Cosgrove's pastorate at St. Dominic's will conclude with his retirement at the end of June.

A native of Hornell, Father Cosgrove was a parishioner at St. Ignatius Loyola Church and student at St. Ann's School. His brother, Father James R. Cosgrove — who died in November 1999 — also went on to be a diocesan priest.

Father William Cosgrove attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries in Rochester and studied sacred theology at the North American College in Rome. He was ordained in the college's chapel on Dec. 17, 1955, by Bishop Martin J. O'Connor.

Upon returning to the Rochester Diocese, Father Cosgrove served as assistant



pastor at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church (1956-61) and Sts. Peter and Paul Church (1961-65), both in Rochester. He noted that his command of the Italian language came in handy at the city parishes, where he preached in Italian.

From there, Father Cosgrove was assistant at St. Michael's in Penn Yan (1965-73). He then served two years as chaplain at St. James Mercy Hospital in Hornell (1973-75).

His first pastorate was at St. Francis Xavier Church in Rochester (1975-76).

He then became pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church in Clyde (1976-83) before settling in for his long stay at St. Dominic's in Shortsville.

"The people here have been very cooperative and supportive," Father Cosgrove said of his Ontario County parish community. "You can turn to them for anything, and they're always there."

Acknowledging that he has served predominantly at inner-city and rural parishes, Father Cosgrove said the biggest contrast, for him, has been the size of parish boundaries.

"Up there (in Rochester), you're talking about blocks. Here, you have to travel three, four, five, six miles to get to your parishioners," he remarked.

Following his retirement, Father Cosgrove — who will turn 70 on May 30 — plans to live at St. Pius Tenth Parish in Chili. "It's close to family," he explained.

Father Cosgrove said he will "help out in the parishes as needed," offering sacramental coverage for weekend and weekday Masses. He also plans to continue his chaplaincy ministry at the U.S. Veterans' Hospital in Canandaigua.

A retirement reception for Father Cosgrove has been planned for June 11, from 2-4 p.m., at the Lake Shore House in Canandaigua.

—Mike Latona

Prisoners, pupils, parishioners mark life

In the 1960s and '70s, Father Walter F. Cushing served as a jail chaplain in Monroe County. The position opened his eyes to a different side of life, one often marked by hopelessness in peoples' lives and difficulties in forming trusting relationships.

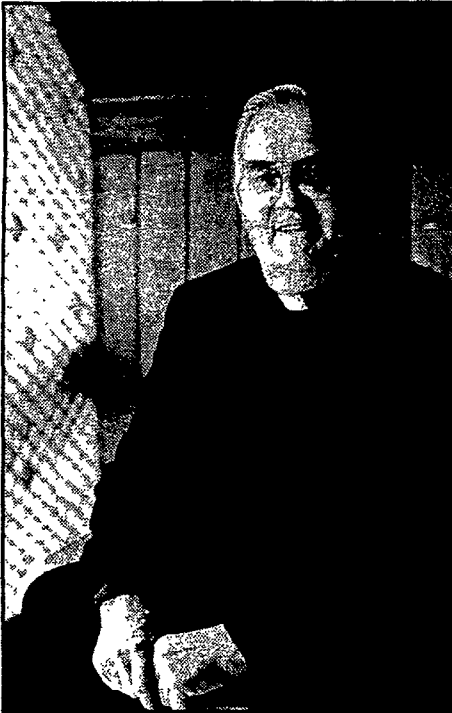
"They all claimed to be innocent, of course," Father Cushing said of the inmates he served. He noted he learned quickly to take such claims with a grain of salt. In his early days as chaplain, he went before judges to advocate on behalf of inmates only to learn that the prisoners hadn't always been completely straight with him about their past lives. More than one judge reminded him of that.

Then again, working with prisoners also allowed him to see great moments of faith, he said.

"Many of them were very sincere and did find religion oftentimes in jail," he said.

Helping people find their religion has been a main thrust of the life of the priest who retires from his pastorate at St. Cecilia's Parish, Irondequoit, on June 30. He plans to stay on as priest-in-residence and will be replaced as pastor by Father Kevin McKenna, chancellor of the Diocese of Rochester.

Father Cushing will celebrate his re-



retirement with a 2:30 p.m. reception June 30 at Bishop Kearney High School, Irondequoit. St. Cecilia's pastor since 1979, Father Cushing said his priesthood has been enriched by the devotion of his parishioners, about 100 of whom show up for daily Mass.

"That's been very rewarding, just to see

the faith of the people of the parish," he said. "They've always been a good example to me."

Father Cushing grew up attending St. Patrick's Church in Corning, and attended Corning Free Academy, then St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries in Rochester. He was ordained June 9, 1956, by Bishop James E. Kearney, and began his career by assisting at Holy Cross Parish, Rochester, where he stayed until 1962. He then became chaplain of St. Agnes High School in Rochester, a position he held until taking up his pastorate. He said he remembered his experience working with the St. Agnes students fondly.

"Some of those friendships carry over to this day," he said.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Father Cushing served as co-director of the Diocesan Family Life Bureau in the 1950s and '60s. As he looked back over the course of his priesthood, Father Cushing became philosophical in his tone.

"You never know the good that you're doing for other people," he said, adding that the priesthood has its ups and downs.

"At times, it's lonely, at times, isolated. But it's well worth all the effort."

— Rob Cullivan



May the Lord bless you
and keep you,
May the Lord's face shine upon you
and be gracious unto you,
May God look upon you
with kindness and give you peace.

—Numbers 6:24-26

Until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of his hand

HAPPY RETIREMENT

FATHER COSGROVE

WE'LL MISS YOU!

Love, St. Dominic's Parish Family

Thank You

Father Joseph D'Aurizio

For your 23 years of pastoral leadership at
St. John the Evangelist Church in Greece.

May God Continue to Bless You!