

FEATURE

Eight priests mark 55 years of serving faithful

A number of diocesan priests ordained in 1945 have tentatively planned to gather in Auburn May 9 to celebrate the anniversary of their ordinations.

Born in 1920, **Father Nicholas P. Alletto** was baptized at St. Lucy's Parish, Rochester, and confirmed at the former St. Patrick's Cathedral.



After completing studies at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries in Rochester, he was ordained

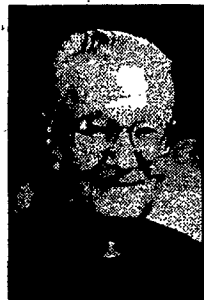
March 17, 1945. He was first assigned to St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Auburn, and later served as assistant pastor at the following parishes: St. Anthony's, Elmira, from April to November 1946; St. Patrick's, Rochester, from 1946-48; St. Patrick's, Corning, from 1948-49; Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira, from 1949-50; Church of the Assumption, Fairport, from 1950-51; St. Anthony's, Elmira, from 1951-59; and St. Francis, Auburn, from 1959-61.

Father Alletto became pastor of St. Lucy's Parish, Rochester, in 1961, before becoming pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Rochester, in 1963.

In January 1969, Father Alletto was involved in a tragic accident in which St. Anthony's housekeeper, Paulin Clarke, died. Along with Father James S. Russell, assistant pastor, Father Alletto and Clarke were overcome by carbon monoxide fumes that had seeped into the rectory from a car left running in the garage.

Father Russell eventually recovered fully from the carbon monoxide poisoning, but Father Alletto was left mentally disabled by the accident. He retired in 1970, and currently lives at Lakeshore Nursing Home in Rochester.

Father L. James Callan, 80, was born in Rochester and was baptized and confirmed at Corpus Christi Church. Following ordination on March 17, 1945, he served as assistant pastor at several parishes: Holy Rosary, Rochester; Sts. Peter and Paul, Elmira; and



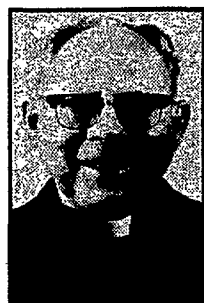
St. Patrick's, Elmira, all during the spring and summer of 1945.

In October of that year, he went on to serve as assistant pastor at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Clyde/St. Patrick, Savannah, until 1950, when he took up assistant pastor duties at St. Louis Parish, Pittsford. He became chaplain at Rochester State Hospital in 1955 where he directed efforts to build St. Jude's Chapel, completed in 1969.

In June 1982, he was named pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Irondequoit, and retired in 1995.

Father Callan lives in a private residence overlooking Lake Ontario in Hamlin. He performs sacramental duties at St. Jude's Church in Gates, and St. Mark's Church in Greece. He said he has enjoyed studying Western cultural history during his retirement.

Father Francis Raymond Davis, 80, a native of Washington, D.C., was baptized at Holy Trinity Church, Georgetown. He was confirmed in 1931 at Holy Rosary Church, Rochester.



Father Davis attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, and eventually received a master's degree in library science

from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Following his ordination on March 17, 1945, Father Davis served as assistant pastor at St. Ambrose Parish, Rochester, from 1945-50.

He then taught at St. Bernard's where he served as the school's librarian. He also served from 1957-60 as an officer of the Catholic Librarians Association.

Father Davis also served as chaplain of Nazareth Hall Cadets School from 1954-60, and as procurator advocate to the diocesan tribunal from 1951-60. Throughout his time at Nazareth, Father Davis also assisted for various lengths of time at Blessed Sacrament, St. Ambrose and St. Philip Neri parishes, all in Rochester.

In 1969, he was named pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Elmira, a position he held until he was named pastor of St. Mary's, Dansville, in 1978. Father Davis took up his last pastorate at St. Patrick's Parish, Corning, in 1980, staying there until his retirement in 1990. Since his retirement Father Davis has lived for various lengths of time at the rectories of the Corning-Painted Post Roman Catholic Community, consisting of the parishes of St. Patrick's, St. Vincent DePaul, Immaculate Heart of Mary, and St. Mary's where he currently resides.

Father Davis celebrated his anniversary with a special Mass on St. Patrick's Day at the church of the same name this year. In his retirement, he performs various sacramental functions for area parishes, and serves as chaplain or spiritual adviser to various devotional and fraternal organizations including the Legion of Mary and the Catholic Daughters of America. He also engages in hospital visitation.

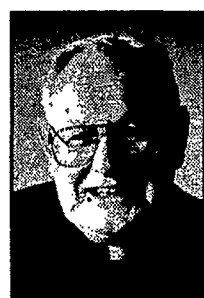
Born in Rochester, **Msgr. John F. Duffy** was baptized and confirmed at St. Monica's Church, and he studied at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. Ordained on Dec. 22, 1945, he served as assistant pastor at the following parishes: St. James, Waverly, from 1946-48; St. Mary's, Canandaigua, from 1948-53; St. Cecilia's, Irondequoit; from 1953-55; St. Stephen's, Geneva, from 1955-60; and Holy Cross, Rochester, 1960-61.



He was named director of the Office of the Propagation of the Faith for the Diocese of Rochester in 1961, a position he held until he was named pastor of St. Mary's, Dansville, in 1969. During his time as director, he was named a monsignor by Pope Paul VI in 1966, and wrote about diocesan nuns in Chile's missions for the diocesan newspaper.

In 1972, Msgr. Duffy became pastor of St. Catherine's Parish, Addison, and stayed there until 1976 when he was named pastor of St. Francis Parish, Phelps. He served as temporary administrator of St. Agnes Parish, Avon, in June 1984, before taking up the pastorate at St. Philip Neri Parish, Rochester. From June to July 1986, he served as temporary parochial vicar at St. John of Rochester, Fairport, and then served as parochial vicar at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Brockport, until 1988. That year, he became temporary parochial vicar of St. Patrick's Church, Victor, until his retirement in 1990. The priest currently lives at McAuley Residence in Brighton.

Father Edward James Foy was born in 1919, and baptized and confirmed at Holy Cross Parish, Rochester, and attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. Following ordination on March 17, 1945, Father Foy served as assistant pastor at the following parishes: St. Bridget's, Rochester, from 1945-1947; Our Mother of Sorrows at Paddy Hill in Greece from 1947-51; St. Michael's, Penn Yan, and St. Andrew's, Dundee, from 1951-



56; St. Helen's, Gates, from 1956-58; St. Jerome's, East Rochester, from 1958-63; St.

Patrick's, Owego, from 1963-65; Holy Family, Rochester, from 1965-66; and St. Joseph's, Penfield, from 1966-67.

Father Foy was named pastor of St. Cecilia's Parish, Elmira, in June 1967 and stayed there until 1972 when he became pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Elmira, as well as administrator of St. Cecilia's, Elmira, a position which ended in 1974. In 1978, he left Sts. Peter and Paul to become pastor of St. James Parish, Waverly, where he worked until his retirement in 1989.

In the last decade, Father Foy has lived at parishes in Corning and Elmira Heights, and currently resides at St. Alphonsus Parish, Auburn. He assists at area parishes.

Father Joseph T. Gaynor, born in 1918, is an Auburn native. He studied at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries in Rochester, and was ordained March 17,



1945. He then served as assistant pastor at the following parishes: Holy Cross, Rochester, from 1945-47; Holy Apostles, Rochester, from 1947-54; St. Francis of Assisi, Auburn, from 1954-56; St. Michael's, Newark, in 1956; Sts. Peter and Paul, Rochester, 1956-61; and St. John the Evangelist, Clyde, 1961-67.

In March 1967, Father Gaynor was named administrator of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Addison, and became pastor in June of that year, serving until 1969 when he was named pastor of St. Charles Borromeo, Elmira Heights. He remained pastor until he retired in 1989. Currently, Father Gaynor resides in the St. Alphonsus rectory in Auburn and assists at the parish.

Father Robert A. Meng retired in 1993 after 25 years as pastor of Holy Rosary Parish, Rochester. A Rochester native, Father Meng was born in 1919, and studied at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. Ordained on March 17, 1945, Father Meng served as assistant pastor at several churches: St. Jerome's, East Rochester, from 1945-49; St. Alphonsus, Auburn, from 1949-53; St. Patrick's, Rochester, from

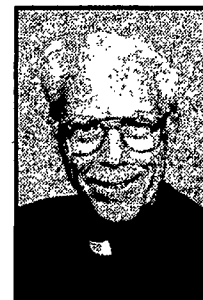


1953-56; St. Felix, Clifton Springs, from 1956-57; St. Anne, Rochester, from 1957-58; St. Ann's, Hornell, from 1958-61; and Corpus Christi, Rochester, from 1961-66.

From 1966-68, Father Meng lived in the Congo, Dahomey and Togo, serving with Catholic Relief Services. He returned to the United States to become pastor of Holy Rosary.

Father Meng currently resides in a private residence in East Rochester. He hears confessions at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Irondequoit, and also assists with the Latin Mass at St. Stanislaus Church, Rochester.

Born in 1919, **Father Jerome F. Schifferli** is a Rochester native who attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. Ordained on March 17, 1945, he served as assistant pastor of St. Michael's Parish, Rochester, from 1945-53, and at St. Mary's Parish, Rochester, from 1953-61.



"Then they caught up with me, and I went to jail," Father Schifferli said jokingly, referring to his appointments in 1961 as chaplain of the Elmira Correctional Facility's Reception Center. He left the prison position in 1972, and was subsequently named pastor of St. Joseph's Parish, Livonia, in 1972, a position he held until his retirement in 1989. During that time, he also oversaw the now-closed St. Margaret's On the Lake Parish, as well as St. William's Parish in Conesus. He still assists both St. Joseph's and St. William's parishes, but said his eyesight is worsening and limiting his ability to work and travel.

"Just say 'His parts are falling apart, and he needs replacing,'" Father Schifferli said with a laugh.

- Rob Cullivan

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