

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Obituaries

### Deacon John G. Swift, 73

The hardest part of delivering a eulogy about his father, Deacon John G. Swift, was keeping the length reasonable, said Kevin Swift. There was much to say.

Deacon Swift was 73 when he died April 6, 2001, in Florida, from heart disease. He was ordained in 1983.

When Kevin Swift asked the Swift family to stand at the funeral liturgy April 12, Holy Thursday, some 50 people rose from the pews at Church of the Good Shepherd, Henrietta. In addition to his wife, Jane, the deacon left his mother, Susan Carson, eight children, 20 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

"Dad, you haven't left us alone," he stated. "You've left us together."

Deacon Swift grew up attending Immaculate Conception Church in Rochester, and attended St. Andrew's Seminary. He worked for the University of Rochester Medical School research department, and had nearly completed a doctorate in neurophysiology.

The Swifts were active in the Cursillo movement, family camp and teen seminars.

Deacon Swift served Good Shepherd, where the couple were parishioners when he was ordained, from 1983-84; St. Anne, Rochester, 1984-85; and Our Lady Queen of Peace, Brighton, 1985-96, until retiring for health reasons.

He died eight weeks before the couple's 50th anniversary, while the two were preparing to return from winter in Florida.

"Believe it or not, our kids, who were already planning a party, are going ahead with it — to celebrate the beginning of their family," Jane Swift said. "They do believe in family."

The party is expected to be held at the American Legion Hall in Rush. Deacon Swift was chaplain of the Rush post for the past 15 years. The family also is planning a 4:30 p.m. Mass that day, June 2, at Good Shepherd because a funeral Mass was not allowed on Holy Thursday.

Kevin Swift told mourners at Good Shepherd April 12 that he remembered his father buying him his first pair of shoes. "I learned to walk and soon after, my shoes were too small because I grew. So I got a new pair," he said.

While selecting clothing for his father to be buried in, he said, "I couldn't find a nice pair of shoes for him. So I went out and bought him a new pair. I bought them a half-size too large. But I know he'll grow into them in his new life."

Contributions were suggested in Deacon Swift's memory to Good Shepherd Memorial Fund, 3318 E. Henrietta Road, Henrietta, NY 14467-9146.

— Kathleen Schwarz



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer



## Tea & tour

Barbara Hoffman (left) will open her historic Rochester home for the second annual Church Women United Tea & Tour Sunday, April 29. Since 1985 Hoffman and her husband, Dan, have lived at 8 King St., in the Susan B. Anthony neighborhood. The two are parishioners at St. Peter and Paul Church. Tours of the home will be given at 12:30, 2 and 3:30 p.m.; tickets are \$10. CWU asks that anyone wanting to be a hostess, or wanting more information, contact Gail Mason, 716/453-9038, or Barbara Hoffman, 716/436-3772.

## Donald Mulcahy; former priest, Catholic Charities administrator

Donald J. Mulcahy, a former diocesan priest who was director of diocesan Catholic Charities, died April 11, 2001, at Rochester General Hospital. He was 79.

Born in Rochester, Mr. Mulcahy attended St. Ambrose School, then St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. He was ordained in 1946 by Bishop James E. Kearney. He served as assistant pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish, Rochester, from 1946-49.

He then became assistant director for

Catholic Charities, serving from 1949-53. In 1953 he was named director of Family Services for Catholic Charities. In 1963 he became Catholic Charities director and Columbus Civic Center director. To prepare for his Catholic Charities duty, he had earned a master's degree in social work at the National Catholic School of Social Service at Catholic University of America.

During his time with Catholic Charities, Mr. Mulcahy also served a term as chairman of Action for a Better Community. He

was also active with Community Chest campaigns, and with the resettlement of Cuban refugees in the early 1960s.

In 1966 he was elevated to the rank of Domestic Prelate, with the title of Right Reverend Monsignor, by Pope Paul VI.

In 1970 he became pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in Victor. He served nine months in what proved to be his only pastorate.

In 1971 he became executive secretary of planning for the diocesan pastoral council. He took a leave of absence in March

1974; resigned from the priesthood in 1975; and was dispensed from all priestly obligations, including celibacy, in 1976.

Sister Elaine Theresa Mulcahy, SSJ, recalled the day her brother met her for lunch, to say he was leaving the priesthood.

"He wanted to put me at ease. He told me he had met this woman, and I reassured him that I wanted anything that would make him happy," said Sister Mulcahy, who resides at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Rochester.

Mr. Mulcahy married his wife, Carole, in 1980. He also served for 14 years as administrator for the American Association of Homes for the Aging in Washington, D.C., and retired in 1989.

Mr. Mulcahy's funeral Mass was celebrated April 17 in the St. Ann's Home chapel. According to Sister Mulcahy, numerous priests attended the liturgy — including some who had resigned or who had otherwise become inactive. Interment was at White Haven Memorial Park.

In addition to his wife and sister, Mr. Mulcahy's survivors include two other sisters, Betty (Jim) Keenan and Dorothy (Jim) Scheible; his mother-in-law, Rose Sehm; and nieces and nephews.

— Mike Latona

## Father John J. Calkins, Rochester native; served in Illinois diocese

Father John J. Calkins, a native of Rochester and longtime priest in the Diocese of Rockford, Ill., died March 22, 2001, in Loves Park, near Rockford. He was 85.

Father Calkins grew up in Sacred Heart Parish and graduated from Aquinas Institute. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Rockford in 1949, by Rochester Bishop James E. Kearney.

Mary Tydings, a parishioner at Rochester's Holy Cross Parish, said that Father Calkins — a longtime family friend — was one of numerous Rochester priests who served in dioceses that were experiencing shortages at that time.

Father Calkins served as an assistant pastor and hospital chaplain in the Rockford Diocese from 1949 to 1953. For the ensuing 12 years, he served as a U.S. Navy chaplain. He returned to Illinois in 1965 and was chaplain at St. Anthony Hospital in Rockford until his 1973 retirement.

He lived in retirement at Rockford's St. James Parish for two years before moving in 1975 to St. Bridget's Parish, in Loves Park, where he remained until his death.

Father Calkins' sister, Mary Mulcahy, noted that for many years, her brother would call faithfully every night from Illinois.

"He wouldn't talk very long; he would ask how the family was. He did that right up until he died. I miss that now," Mulcahy said. She resides at Shorewinds Nursing Home (formerly Lakeshore Nursing Home) in Rochester.

Father Calkins' funeral Mass was celebrated March 27 at St. Bridget's Church in Loves Park. Interment was at Calvary Cemetery in Rockford.

In addition to his sister, Father Calkins survived by his brother, James; niece, Mary Farrell; and two nephews, John and Patrick Mulcahy, all of Rochester.

— Mike Latona

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