

FEATURE

Clergy celebrate lives of service to the faithful

65 years

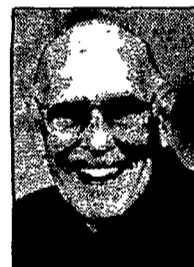
Retired since 1977, **Father Austin B. Hanna** resides at McAuley Center in Brighton.



Father Hanna was born in 1908 and grew up in St. Augustine's Parish, Rochester. He attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries as well as Harvard University. Ordained by Archbishop Edward Mooney June 7, 1936, in the old St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rochester. Father Hanna's first assignment was as assistant pastor at Holy Cross Parish, Rochester. In 1937, he began a three-year stint as assistant pastor at St. Aloysius Parish, Auburn.

Before World War II began, Father Hanna became the first priest from the Diocese of Rochester to volunteer for army chaplaincy. In 1942, he became the first chaplain of the War College in Washington, D.C. In 1945, he became the first Catholic priest to be appointed as a member of the newly organized Veterans Administration of Chaplaincy Corps. That same year, he was named Catholic chaplain of Veteran's Hospital, Canandaigua.

After the war, Father Hanna began a long career as chaplain at St. Joseph's Villa in Greece, a home for children and adolescents that also provided services for nonresidents. During his time at the Villa, he also taught briefly at Aquinas Institute; served as a chaplain at the University of Rochester and the Eastman School of Music; and was active in the American Legion and the Kiwanis Club and the Elks.



Retirement has little changed the priestly life of **Father Elmer W. Heindl**, who is a priest-in-residence at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Greece.

"I'm exactly as busy now as I was when I was in active ministry,"

he said.

Born in 1908, the priest celebrates Mass at area nursing homes and does pastoral work for residents and area hospital patients. He also serves as chaplain to a local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. As an unarmed chaplain in the Pacific Theater during World War II, Father Heindl spent 2½ years in combat situations and was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross and Bronze Star for extraordinary heroism.

Father Heindl attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, and was ordained by Archbishop Mooney on June 7, 1936, in St. Patrick's Cathedral,

Rochester. His first assignment was as assistant pastor at St. Mary's Church, Dansville. He served during the 1930s and early '40s at the parishes of Holy Ghost, Gates; St. Alphonsus, Auburn; and St. Andrew's, Rochester.

From 1942-48, Father Heindl served as a U.S. Army chaplain, returning to Rochester to become assistant pastor at St. Mary's Parish. In 1951, he was named assistant pastor at Holy Trinity Parish, Webster.

Father Heindl was the pastor of a number of parishes, beginning in 1958 at St. Bernard's, Scipio Center, while also overseeing its mission churches of St. Hilary's, Genoa, and St. Isaac Jogues in Fleming.

He was pastor of the parishes of St. Theodore's, Gates; of St. Patrick's in Cato and St. Thomas in Red Creek; and of St. Joseph's, Weedsport, from 1972 until his retirement in 1980. He has lived at St. Charles since then.

Among the many ways he's marking his 65th year as a priest is by throwing out the first pitch at Frontier Field in Rochester for a Rochester Red Wings game at 2:15 p.m. Memorial Day. He noted that many St. Charles schoolchildren will be at the game.

"They want to see the old priest scare them," he said with a laugh.



You could find no better source than **Father Robert F. McNamara**, diocesan archivist, and author of the diocese's official history, for virtually any historical fact about the Diocese of Rochester. His history was first published in 1968, and an updated version was released in 1998.

Father McNamara resides at St. Thomas the Apostle rectory in Irondequoit.

Father McNamara has contributed numerous articles to the *Catholic Courier*, and is a former staff member. He has also authored books on such subjects as the history of Catholic Sunday preaching and on St. Bernard's Seminary; he has also written for various periodicals, as well as for the *New Catholic Encyclopedia*.

Born in Corning in 1910, Father McNamara grew up in St. Mary's Parish there, and attended Georgetown and Harvard universities as well as Gregorian University in Rome, where he was a resident at North American College. He was ordained in Rome on Dec. 8, 1936.

Father McNamara served as assistant pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish, Rochester, from 1937-38. He also served as chaplain at St. Ann's Home, Rochester, in the late '30s, and was a weekend assistant at St. Salome's Church, Rochester, from 1940-79.

Most of his career was spent teaching church history and many other subjects at St. Bernard's Seminary, from which

he retired in 1981. He also taught church history at the Toronto School of Theology in 1972 and 1976. Additionally, Father McNamara served on the Diocesan Liturgical Commission from 1965-76. He has been diocesan archivist since 1976.

The priest said his priesthood has been a "radiant privilege" and that he prays for vocations.

"My constant prayer is that every young man who hears (God) calling will say 'Yes.'"

60 years

The following priests were ordained June 7, 1941, at Sacred Heart Cathedral by Bishop James E. Kearney.



Twin brothers **Msgrs. Gerard J. and Joseph G. Gefell** reside together in Cape Vincent in the Diocese of Ogdensburg, N.Y. Both priests perform various weekend duties at parishes in the diocese.

Both men are retired colonels from the U.S. Army where they served as chaplains, sometimes apart, sometimes together, for much of their priestly careers. Msgr. Gerard said that both he and his brother were corps chaplains to airborne troops, and that they had to do dozens of parachute jumps themselves.

They were born Oct. 28, 1915, and attended St. Michael's Church and its school in Rochester. The brothers are graduates of St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

Msgr. Joseph Gefell served at St. John the Baptist Cathedral, Paterson, N.J., and then St. Francis Xavier Parish, Rochester. In 1943, he joined the army and served with U.S. forces in the Pacific until 1945. He came back to serve St. Theodore's Parish, Gates, until 1947, when he reenlisted. He served with the army in the Philippines, Japan, Germany, Vietnam and the United States.

After ordination, Msgr. Gerard Gefell served at the parishes of St. Alphonsus, Auburn, and St. Michael's, Newark. He joined the army in 1948, and did tours of duty in Korea and Vietnam as well as state-side.

Msgr. Joseph Gefell left the army in 1973 and became pastor of St. Alphonsus. He left his pastorate in 1976, and served at a few other diocesan parishes until he retired in 1977.

Msgr. Gerard left the army in 1978 and became pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish, Ontario. In 1980, he was named associate pastor of St. Lawrence Parish, Greece, and stayed there until 1982. The two brothers have lived together in Cape Vincent since then.

Both men are proud of having served the army, Msgr. Joseph noted.

"They needed priests, and we were both in good health, so we both volunteered," he said.



Father John J. Nacca recently returned to Rochester to live with his sister, Vera D'Angelo. The retired priest had served parishes in Florida, Oklahoma and New Mexico since 1985.

Born in 1915, Father Nacca attended Holy Rosary School in Rochester, and Aquinas Institute, as well as St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

After ordination, he served as assistant priest at St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Auburn; at Church of the Assumption in Fairport; and at St. Francis Xavier Parish, Rochester.

He was named pastor of St. Francis of Assisi, Auburn, in 1949, and served there until 1985, creating one of the longest records of service as pastor to a single diocesan parish. Now that he has returned to Rochester, Father Nacca said he hopes to serve the people here.

Father Lawrence W. Sansom actively ministers at the Brightonian Nursing Home, Brighton.

"I like to be with the old people and give them the sacraments. They're so appreciative."

Father Sansom's sister, Gertrude Fulreader, who died in 1999 at the age of 99, lived at the home. The priest plans to celebrate his anniversary June 7 with his last living sister, Betty Jarek, in Schenectady.

Born in 1914, Father Sansom grew up attending Immaculate Conception Church and School in Rochester, and graduated from St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. Father Sansom served at several diocesan parishes, beginning with St. Joseph's, Wayland, and including St. Anthony's, Elmira; St. Agnes, Avon; Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Rochester; St. Theodore's, Gates; St. Mary's, Corning; St. John the Evangelist, Spencerport; and Holy Family, Auburn.

Father Sansom was named pastor of St. James the Apostle Parish, Trumansburg, in 1966. In 1970 he was appointed pastor of the dual parishes of St. Mary of the Lake, Watkins Glen/St. Benedict, Odessa. From 1973-75, he served in the Diocese of Orlando, Fla., returning to this diocese to work as associate pastor at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Rochester.

Father Sansom left Good Counsel in 1983, and returned to Florida to work in different parishes before coming back to Rochester to take care of his sister, Mrs. Fulreader, in 1989. He occasionally helps out at St. Anne Church in the city.

Father James F. Slattery resides at St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary in Pittsford.

Born in 1915, the priest grew up attending Rochester's St. Monica's Church and School, and also attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. Following ordination, Father Slattery served as assistant pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Brighton; St. Ignatius Loyola

CONGRATULATIONS

Rev. Thomas P. Mull

On 25 years of
service
to the Lord

With gratitude
for your embrace
of God's call
to the vocation
of Holy Orders.

...the people of
St. Mary Church,
Canandaigua

Congratulations
**Father Paul
Wohlrab**

on the Sixtieth Anniversary
of your

Ordination June 7th.

We are truly blessed at
St. John The Evangelist
in Spencerport

that you have embraced
our Parish family.

We pray you will

Have a year of Happiness,
Good Health and Many Blessings

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE PARISH

With deep gratitude congratulates our founding pastor

REVEREND JAMES F. SLATTERY

On the Occasion of His 60th Anniversary of Ordination
He Planted for Us The Rich Strong Seeds of Faith