

FEATURE

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John J. Nacca returned to live with Vera D'Angelo retired priest in parishes in Oklahoma and Mexico since

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Church, Hornell; and St. Vincent de Paul Church, Corning.

In 1960, Father Slattery became the founding pastor of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Brighton, where he served until his retirement in 1986. He lived at St. Louis Parish, Pittsford, until going to the infirmary in 1999. He said he enjoys socializing with priests.



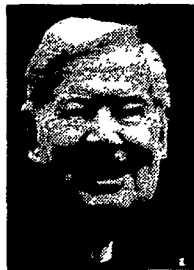
Father Paul G. Wohlrab attributes divine intervention to his ability to continue to minister.

"The Lord blesses me with good health, so that's an advantage," said the spiritual director of the Legion of Mary for the diocese.

Father Wohlrab, who will turn 86 on June 5, grew up attending Holy Family Church and School in Rochester, and is a graduate of St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. Following ordination, he served as assistant pastor at the parishes of St. Michael's, Rochester; Holy Trinity, Webster; Holy Rosary and St. Andrew's, Rochester; and as chaplain at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester. He also served as pastor of the dual parishes of St. Michael's, Livonia Center/St. Mary's, Honeoye, from 1965-67, and as pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish, Rochester, from 1967-85.

Father Wohlrab also served as moderator of the Catholic Speakers' Bureau in Rochester, and as spiritual director of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Nurses and the Knights of Columbus, Council 178. He resides and serves at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Spencerport. He also does pastoral work in nursing homes and hospitals throughout Monroe County.

55 years



Tiger Woods apparently has nothing to fear from **Father John P. Norris**, who has played some of the biggest golf courses in Scotland, including the famed 600-year-old St. Andrews known as the "Home of Golf."

"It was a good fair course, no trees and a lot of traps," he said. When asked his score, he replied with a chuckle: "I'm not going to tell you that."

A native of Glasgow, Scotland, Father Norris emigrated to the United States as a baby with his family and attended St. Augustine's School in Rochester. He attended Aquinas Institute, and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

Father Norris was ordained Oct. 19, 1946, by Bishop James E. Kearney at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester. After ordination, he served as associate pastor at the following parishes: St. Mary's, Auburn; St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester; Holy Family, Auburn; and St. Boniface, Rochester.

From 1961-68, Father Norris was chaplain at the State School at Industry. He then became pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Rochester, in 1968, where he oversaw the founding of the first parish pastoral council in the diocese. He stayed at Blessed Sacrament until he was named pastor of Church of the Assumption in Fairport in 1980. He retired from Assumption in 1991, and has lived at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Mendon since then.

In retirement, Father Norris celebrates daily Mass, preaches and visits the sick.

50 years

The following priests, were ordained at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester, by Bishop James E. Kearney on June 2, 1951, except where otherwise indicated.



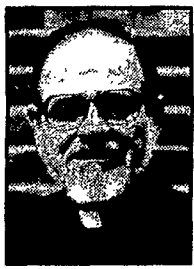
Father Robert J. Downs currently resides at Southfield Apartments in Auburn. A native of Rochester, Father Downs grew up attending Holy Rosary Parish and School. He then attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

Following ordination, Father Downs served as an assistant priest at the following parishes: St. Mary's, Auburn; Immaculate Conception, Ithaca; St. Anthony's, Rochester; St. John the Evangelist, Rochester; and St. Pius the Tenth, Chili. Father Downs then served as pastor at the following parishes: St. Patrick's, Aurora; St. John the Evangelist, Spencerport; St. Pius the Tenth, Van Etten; and at St. Benedict's, Odessa. He then served as administrator at St. John the Evangelist, Port Byron, and St. Michael's, Montezuma; and then as pastor at St. Patrick's, Moravia; and St. Bernard's, Scipio Center. He also assisted at Guardian Angels, Rochester.

The priest served as chaplain to the Newman Club at Ithaca College in the 1950s, as well as at an area sanitarium for people with tuberculosis.

Since retiring in 1997, Father Downs has helped out at diocesan parishes. He has also made a few trips to Pittsburgh to watch his beloved Pirates play ball. He will celebrate his anniversary with a 9:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, June 3, at St. Mary's, Auburn.

"All the various ministries are all enjoyable and rewarding," he said of his priesthood. "(The people) are good and a joy to work with."



Father Sebastian A. Falcone was the first president of St. Bernard's Institute, from 1981-92, and has continued to teach biblical studies there since he left his presidency. He currently resides in his Brighton home, and assists at St. Anne Parish, Rochester.

Born in 1927, Father Falcone grew up attending St. Anthony's Church and School in Rochester. He then attended St. Lawrence Seminary and Novitiate in Beacon, N.Y., before attending Immaculate Conception Seminary in the Bronx and then Our Lady of Angels Seminary in Staunton, Va. He was ordained a Capuchin-Franciscan priest May 16, 1951, at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Richmond, Va. In 1974, he was incardinated in the Diocese of Rochester.

Father Falcone pursued studies in various disciplines throughout his career. In addition to teaching over the years, he has also extensively worked in religious order and academic administration.

Father Falcone coordinated the Permanent Diaconate Task Force for the diocese from 1976-78. Additionally, his writings have covered such subjects as poetry, theology, the church's social and liturgical teachings, education and the arts, and he has been published in many newspapers, magazines, journals and the Catholic Encyclopedia. The priest has also produced various multi-media, documentary and TV works.

"No day in God's service is long enough," he said of his priesthood. "No praise for God is fully adequate and yet, despite the inadequacies in both these regards ... we (priests) move on and offer the best that we can as poor as we are."



Father Michael Hogan visits shut-ins and hospital patients, hears confessions and celebrates sacraments in his retirement. Yet he does have his limits.

"The only things I don't do are weddings or windows," he said

with chuckle. "Or meetings."

Brother of Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, who died last August, Father Hogan, born in 1925, grew up attending St. Rose Church and School in Lima, and Lima High School. He attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

Following ordination, Father Hogan served as assistant pastor at the parishes of St. Francis de Sales, Geneva; Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester; and St. Patrick's, Elmira.

From 1966-69, Father Hogan was secretary to Bishop Fulton J. Sheen. Then, in 1969, when his brother became bishop, Father Hogan was his first pastor appointment, assigned to St. Paul of the Cross Parish, Honeoye Falls. He stayed there until he became pastor of St. Mary's Parish, Corning, in 1975. In 1982, he was named pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Ithaca, a position he held until 1987 when he became pastor of St. Mary's Parish, Honeoye.

He retired in 1994, and has been living at St. John of Rochester Parish, Fairport, since then. Father Hogan will celebrate his anniversary with a noon Mass on June 3 at the parish, and a reception.



Father Robert C. MacNamara celebrated his anniversary with Masses on May 18 and 20, and a reception, at St. Mary Our Mother Church, Horseheads, where he lives in the rectory. Born in 1925, Father MacNamara grew up attending St. Patrick's Church and School in Elmira, and Elmira Catholic High School. He then attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, and has been a fellow at Yale Divinity School, and a graduate student at Catholic University of America and Alfred University.

Following ordination, Father MacNamara served as associate pastor at the following parishes: St. Ann's, Hornell; St. Louis, Pittsford; St. Mary's, Rochester; Immaculate Conception, Ithaca; and St. Margaret Mary's, Irondequoit. He then served as pastor at St. Ann's, Hornell; St. Vincent de Paul, Corning; and finally at St. John of Rochester, Fairport. He retired in 1992. He has also served with the diocesan Priests' Council, the Clergy Relief Society, and as a diocesan consultant.

In retirement, the priest helps out at his resident parish, has done some traveling and reading. He added that he most especially enjoys socializing with his fellow priests.

"Priests respect each other fundamentally and essentially because they have a sense of vocation," he said. "What they really share is a call from Christ, and they try to see Christ in one another in spite of all our faults."



Father Norbert L. Nolan currently lives in an apartment in Greece, and helps out at St. Mark's Parish as well as other parishes. He planned to celebrate his anniversary with a Mass at noon on June 3 in St. Mark's.

Born in 1926, Father Nolan attended Holy Apostles School in Rochester. He then attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. Following ordination, Father Nolan assisted at the following parishes: Holy Cross, Rochester; St. Ignatius, Hornell; Assumption, Fairport; St. Mary's, Dansville; and Our Lady of Lourdes, Brighton.

He became pastor of St. Theresa's Parish, Stanley, and St. Mary's, Rushville, in 1970, staying in that position until 1980 when he became pastor of St. Patrick's, Mount Morris, where he stayed until 1991. After retiring in 1993, he lived for two years at St. Christopher's Parish, North Chili, and then moved into his own place.

He said that a priest is able to cultivate special relationships with people.

"You have a sense of satisfaction that you're doing something in their spiritual life, and sometimes in their ordinary life, too," he said.



Father Richard C. O'Connell likened his priesthood to wine.

"It gets better with age," he said.

Priest-in-residence at St. Monica's Parish, Rochester, Father O'Connell keeps busy serving the people of the Roman Catholic Community of the 19th Ward, comprising St. Monica's, St. Augustine's and Our Lady of Good Counsel parishes as well as Emmanuel Church of the Deaf, located at Good Counsel.

Born in 1925, Father O'Connell grew up attending St. Felix Church in Clifton Springs, and attending the area's public elementary school. He then attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries in Rochester.

Father O'Connell served as associate pastor at the following parishes: St. Francis of Assisi, Rochester; St. Rita's, Webster; St. James, Irondequoit; Holy Rosary, Rochester; and St. Agnes, Avon.

In 1969, he was named pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Addison, a position he held until he became pastor of St. Mary's Parish, Dansville, in 1972. He left St. Mary's in 1978 to be pastor of three Elmira parishes: St. John the Baptist, St. Cecilia and St. Peter and Paul. His last pastorate ran from 1983-95 at St. Joseph's Parish, Rush.

Father O'Connell will celebrate his jubilee with a noon Mass at St. Monica's on June 3, followed by a reception at The Party House.

"Being able to offer the Eucharist, and being able to serve people, and being able to minister to the sick and dying gives meaning to my existence," he said.



Father John Steger has served as pastor of St. Jude's Parish in Gates since its founding 33 years ago.

Father Steger had three other parish assignments as assistant pastor: at St. Joseph's, Wayland; St. Alphonsus, Auburn; and St. Theodore's, Gates.

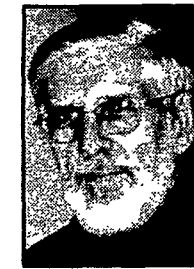
Born in 1926, he attended Holy Family Parish and School in Rochester. He attended Aquinas Institute and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

At St. Theodore's, Father Steger assisted the future Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey. In 1968, Father Steger was assigned by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen as founding pastor of St. Jude's. After 33 years there, Father Steger said he considers his parishioners and staff to be his family.

"They don't call me 'Father' for nothing. I try to take care of all spiritual and human needs for the people," said Father Steger, who will turn 75 on May 26.

An anniversary Mass will be held at St. Jude's at 3 p.m., June 3, followed by a reception at Logan's Party House.

— Rob Cullivan



Father Austin J. Budnick, OFM, celebrated his 50th anniversary May 19. A priest of Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary Province, Pulaski, Wis., he assists at St. Mary of the Lake Church in Watkins Glen and at St. Benedict Church in Odessa.

Father Budnick was ordained by Bishop Stanislaus V. Bona, DD, at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Green Bay, Wis. He was assigned to St. Anthony of Padua Prep School in Watkins Glen, where he taught Latin and remedial reading, and was elected guardian of St.