

# FEATURE

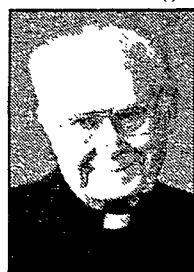
Anthony of Padua Friary in Watkins Glen in June 1966.

After the prep school was closed in 1970, Father Budnick continued studies at Cornell University and later received his Ph.D. in adult education from Syracuse University.

Father Budnick and an associate, Eleanor Jackson, founded St. Anthony's Free University Program for Older Adults, a lifelong learning center that continued for 12 years.

Father Budnick offers the Eucharist at Watkins Glen International during major race weekends. He regularly has Mass for the Falls Home in Montour Falls and the Schuyler County Longterm Care Facility.

Father Budnick also was director of the Secular Franciscans at St. Patrick's Parish in Owego.



**Basilian Father John Poluikis, CSB, 78**, the longest-serving priest at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, will celebrate his 50th anniversary with a Mass in Toronto June 28.

He was ordained June 29, 1951, in St. Michael's Church, Toronto, by Cardinal James Charles McGuigan.

Father Poluikis, who holds a D.A. in mathematics from Idaho State University, first taught mathematics and religion from 1952-55 at Aquinas Institute. In the fall of 1955 he went to Fisher, where he was put in charge of the physics department and later moved into teaching mathematics.

"One of the reasons I was involved in physics at the time, was it was hard to hire physics professors because the government had snatched them all up," he said, noting that the Soviet Union had launched the Sputnik satellite in 1957 and the United States responded with increased attention to science. "The other thing was that science was extremely popular at the time at St. John Fisher."

Father Poluikis collaborated with Richard Pegis to first install computer equipment at the college. He continued to work in the physics and math departments until spring 2000, when he retired from full-time teaching. He has continued to teach a course each year in mathematics and computers.

He also continues to get together

every summer with other mathematicians in the Clavius Group, named after the Jesuit who developed the Gregorian calendar, to share work, prayer and recreation. Father Poluikis also has been saying Easter Mass at Hill Haven Nursing Home for three years.

A Rochester native, Father Poluikis still attends his home parish of St. Stanislaus, where he went to grade school and said his first Mass. He also is a graduate of Aquinas.

The Catholic Golden Age Prince of Peace Chapter, for which the priest is spiritual adviser, will host a celebration Sunday, June 24, at Kearney Auditorium. The public is welcome to the 2 p.m. Mass and dinner afterward, but should call Irene Peters, 716/467-3398, for arrangements.

— Kathleen Schwarz

## 25 years



**Father Peter C. Clifford** is pastor of St. Michael's Parish, Newark.

He grew up attending St. Alphonsus Parish, Auburn, and attended the parish school. In 1971, Father Clifford graduated from St. John Fisher College, and in 1975, earned a master's in divinity from St. Bernard's Seminary.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan ordained Father Clifford at Holy Ghost Church, Gates, March 25, 1976. The new priest then served as priest intern at St. Michael's Church, Penn Yan, 1976-79; and as associate pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish, Ithaca, 1979-81. From 1981-91, Father Clifford was co-pastor of St. John the Evangelist Church, Rochester, and was named diocesan director of parish support ministry after leaving St. John's. He took up his current position in 1995.

Additionally, Father Clifford serves on the renovation committee for Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester.

Explaining that he loves parish work, Father Clifford said, "It is an awesome privilege to be admitted to the hearts and lives of people in times of great celebration, and in times of tragedy and sorrow, and to the whole spectrum of daily human life."



**Father Thomas P. Mull** has been pastor of St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua, since June 2000.

Father Mull grew up attending St. Mary's Parish in Waterloo where he also went to school.

He earned his master's in divinity from St. Bernard's Seminary and a master's in theology from the University of Notre Dame. He was ordained by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan at St. Andrew's Church, Rochester, March 19, 1976.

Father Mull served as a priest intern at St. Ambrose Church, Rochester, from 1976 to 1982. Then he became both diocesan director of the office of liturgy as well as associate pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester. In 1988, Father Mull was named pastor of Sacred Heart and also became consultant to the diocesan liturgy office.

Father Mull is director of the Mass for shut-ins broadcast every Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on WHEC-TV Channel 10 in Rochester. He also serves as diocesan liaison for the Latin Mass community at St. Stanislaus Church, Rochester.

On March 19, he celebrated Mass for students from the schools at St. Mary's and Sacred Heart, and the students then made him guest of honor at their chili and hot dog lunch.

"I've been blessed to have a variety of pastoral experiences," Father Mull said. "The people have always been very warm and welcoming to me, and that's what's made these 25 very happy years."



**Father Michael G. Upson** has been administrator of Immaculate Conception Parish in Rochester since 1992.

Father Upson grew up attending St. Patrick's Church, Long Island City, Long Island. His seminary training took place at Immaculate Conception Seminary, Huntington, L.I., and he also earned his master's in divinity degree there.

Father Upson was ordained by

Bishop Francis Mugavero of Brooklyn at St. Bonaventure Church, Jamaica, N.Y., Feb. 21, 1976. After ordination, he served as parochial vicar at Christ the King Parish in Queens until 1983. He then went to the Diocese of Port of Spain in Trinidad where he did pastoral work and served as a seminary instructor.

From 1986-1988, Father Upson was parochial vicar at St. Vincent Ferrer Parish in Brooklyn. He took a leave of absence for one year from the priesthood before coming to the Diocese of Rochester in 1989. He served as director of a not-for-profit privately funded support group for adults with developmental disabilities from 1989-93.



**Father Thomas J. Valenti** attended St. Boniface Church, Rochester, and its school. He is a graduate of Cardinal Mooney High School, Greece, and St. John Fisher College, Rochester. He also

earned a master's in divinity from St. Bernard's Seminary, and completed clinical pastoral education at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

Father Valenti was ordained by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan on April 2, 1976, at St. Mary's of the Lake Church, Ontario. He served as priest intern at Holy Apostles Church, Rochester, 1976-77 and as priest-intern and then associate pastor at Blessed Sacrament Church, Rochester, 1977-1980.

In 1980, he was named diocesan director of vocations, and then, with the closing of St. Bernard's Seminary in 1981, he became diocesan director of formation for the priesthood. In 1990, he became director of Becket Hall, and was named assistant to the bishop for vocations. He went to Ithaca College to be chaplain from 1993-97.

Father Valenti has since served as a chaplain at Columbia University, New York City, and associate pastor at the Church of Notre Dame, which serves the student body.

The priest summed up his reflection on his ministry with these words: "I cannot better express 25 years of priestly ministry than to use the words of St. Paul, 'I thank our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all my strength.'"

— Rob Cullivan

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