

DIOCESAN NEWS

McQuaid priests mark milestones

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

The Society of Jesus has at least three reasons to celebrate 2001, and they're all at McQuaid Jesuit High School in Rochester.

On Sept. 21, Father Philip Judge, SJ, the school's principal, and Father Frederick G. Betti, SJ, chairman of the school's religious studies department, made the solemn profession of their final vows during McQuaid's annual Mass of the Holy Spirit involving the faculty and student body.

And on Aug. 14, Father Francis J. McNamara, SJ, McQuaid's alumni director, celebrated the 60th anniversary of his entrance into the order. Jesuits date their anniversaries from their novitiate year, not their ordination year, which in Father McNamara's case was 1954.

For Fathers Judge and Betti, the solemn profession was the final stage a Jesuit and the society take in recognizing the permanent commitment each has made to the other, Father Betti said. He took perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in 1981 to the men's religious order, and the solemn profession reaffirms those vows, he said. Additionally, he said, the Jesuits take special vows of obedience to the pope, as well as to take special care for the instruction of children.

He added that after the Mass, he and Father Judge went to the school's chapel where they took five additional vows, which call on them to make no efforts to relax the Jesuits' vows of poverty and to eschew any ambition for high office inside or outside the church.

Appointments

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced these appointments:

- **Father Richard J. Beligotti**, to pastor, St. Salome Parish, Rochester, effective Sept. 20, from St. John the Evangelist Parish, Humboldt St., Rochester, where he was assigned for Father William Spilly's sabbatical.

- **Father David L. Bonin**, to pastor, St. Margaret Mary Parish, Apalachin, effective Oct. 30, from pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Parish, Watkins Glen, and St. Benedict Parish, Odessa.

- Also, Bishop Clark has appointed **Father Berard Dudek**, of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual, as pastor of St. Hyacinth Parish, Auburn, at the recommendation of Father Michael Kolodziej, OFM, minister provincial of the Conventual Franciscan Friars of the St. Anthony of Padua Province.



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

Jesuit Fathers Philip Judge (left) and Frederick Betti of McQuaid Jesuit High School took their final vows Sept. 21, and paused for a picture in the school's chapel. Behind them is a statue of St. Francis Xavier, the school's patron saint.

Both priests have several graduate degrees between them, and have worked in numerous administrative and educational capacities for their order.

A native of Queens, Father Judge entered the Society of Jesus in August 1980, at St. Andrew's Hall in Syracuse. He professed his perpetual vows Aug. 16, 1982, at Fordham University in Manhattan. From 1986-89, Father Judge taught English and theology at McQuaid. On June 13, 1993, Father Judge was ordained to the priesthood at Fordham, and then served in New York City. He was named principal of McQuaid in the spring of 2000.

In addition to his work at McQuaid, Father Judge also serves as sacramental minister at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Brighton, and at Nazareth College.

Father Betti was born in Buffalo, and graduated from Canisius College in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in religious studies. That same year, in August, he entered the Jesuits from St. Andrew Hall, and professed his perpetual vows on Aug. 14, 1981. On June 9, 1990, he was ordained a priest at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Buffalo. Since then, he has served at McQuaid. In addition to his teaching duties, he oversees the school's service programs, and has served as moderator of the freshman and senior classes.

Father Betti has also assisted the campus ministry board at Our Lady of Mercy High School, Brighton, with its retreats and liturgies. Along with Father Judge, he also serves at Our Lady of Lourdes.

Father Betti said he is glad he devoted

his life to the education of adolescents.

"I'd say that this is the most important age at which we can help the formation of a person," he said.

Father Judge echoed those sentiments.

"There's probably no four-year period where a kid does more growing up than in high school," the principal said.

Meanwhile, Father McNamara is still keeping busy at age 78. A native of Poughkeepsie, he entered the Jesuits in 1941 in Brooklyn. From 1956-59, he taught English, religion and Latin at McQuaid. In 1959, he went to Brooklyn Preparatory to serve as a guidance counselor, a position he also subsequently held at two other schools. He returned to McQuaid in 1985 to become a guidance counselor to upper grade students, a position he held until he was appointed alumni director.

Father McNamara also serves as moderator of an alumni mothers' group as well as moderator of the parents' association.

In addition to his work at McQuaid, Father McNamara assists at the parishes of Holy Ghost, Gates, and Our Mother of Sorrows, Greece. He also serves on the Diocese of Rochester's priests' council.

The priest said he celebrated his 60th anniversary as a Jesuit with a Mass July 8 — his birthday — at the motherhouse for the Sisters of Mercy in Brighton, where he also often presides at liturgies.

He added that he likes to get out on the nines in his spare time.

"I still play some golf, but the backswing is shorter than it used to be," he said with a chuckle.

Couple loses son in attack

Todd Pelino, 34, a former parishioner of St. Catherine of Siena Church in Mendon, was among those presumed killed in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City on Sept. 11.

A 1985 graduate of Pittsford-Mendon High School, Pelino was employed by Cantor Fitzgerald, a financial services firm, and worked on the 105th floor of the one of the twin towers of the World Trade Center.

In a sad twist of fate, his sister-in-law, Kathleen Pezzuti, 28, employed by the same firm, worked on the same floor, and was also lost in the attacks.

A 1989 graduate of Colgate University, Mr. Pelino lived in Fair Haven, N.J., with his wife of more than six years, Megan, and their two children. His parents, Douglas and Maureen Pelino, live in Pittsford and attend St. Catherine's.

Douglas Pelino said his son was a good father and husband who will be remembered fondly for his ability to make friends easily.

"He was able to meet people of all different ages, younger and older," he said. "He just made a good impression."

An overflow crowd attended a memorial Mass at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Mendon on Sept. 24. The Mass was celebrated by Father Daniel F. Holland, pastor of St. Theodore's Parish, Gates, who was assisted by Father James Lawlor, pastor of St. Catherine's. Father Holland grew up with Mr. Pelino's father in St. Monica's Parish, Rochester.

"He was a very happy human being who brought a lot of joy to people's lives," Father Holland said of Mr. Pelino. "I never saw him in a down moment."

Father Holland added that in his homily, he tried to comfort the congregation by noting that Christ's life also ended in a tragic death before the resurrection.

"We certainly don't expect Easter right now but we will in God's time for everyone and our nation."

Memorial contributions may be made to the Todd Pelino '89 Memorial Fund at Colgate University, attn: Pat Caprio, 13 Oak Drive, Hamilton, NY 13346.

—Rob Cullivan

College choir soothes Manhattan with songs

A choir from Nazareth College, Rochester, spent Sept. 20-21 in Manhattan singing patriotic songs, hymns and spirituals to give comfort to a city still in shock from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks that may have killed more than 6,500 people.

The tour was organized by Dr. Bryan Hunter, coordinator of the music therapy program at Nazareth. Hunter said he was inspired to organize the trip after watching a TV news report that told of someone performing or playing patriotic songs to comfort people standing in a line in downtown Manhattan at an armory. The people were there to file missing persons reports on relatives lost in the rubble of the collapsed World Trade Center.

Hunter said 42 students, six faculty members and one student parent made the trip, funded by an anonymous donor. The choir, created just for the trip, had two one-hour rehearsals in the days before, practicing such songs as "America the Beautiful" and "Amazing Grace."

On Sept. 20, the choir performed at three fire stations that had lost firefighters in the tragedy, as well as at Union Square

in Manhattan where many New Yorkers have been creating a makeshift memorial site to the attack's victims.

"They were very appreciative of the support," Hunter said of the firefighters who listened to the choir's performances. "It was really, I think, a humane thing to do."

On Sept. 21, the choir performed at a security checkpoint about five blocks from the site of the attacks, and could see the ruins of World Trade Center Building No. 7, he said. Later that day the choir performed at a memorial service in Bellevue

Hospital. The volunteers returned to Rochester that night.

"They were very much moved by the whole experience," Hunter said of his volunteers. "Some of them were crying at times when we were singing."

—Rob Cullivan

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Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580)
Vol. 112 No. 51, Sept. 27, 2001

Published weekly except the last Thursday in December.
Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$20.00; Canada and foreign \$20.00 plus postage. Offices: 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, 716/328-4340. Periodicals postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

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