

MILESTONES

Clergy celebrate their years of community service

25 years



Father John Firpo is the pastor at St. Helen's Parish in Gates.

He grew up in St. Pius Tenth Parish in Chili and attended St. Peter and Paul in Rochester, St. Pius Tenth in Chili and King's Preparatory School in Rochester. He also attended St. John Fisher College and St. Bernard's Seminary.

He was ordained by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan on March 18, 1977, at Rochester's St. Andrew's Church, where he had served as deacon intern from 1976-77. He served as assistant pastor of St. Mary Our Mother, Horseheads, 1977-81; associate pastor of St. Louis, Pittsford, 1981-82; director of the diocesan Division of Social Ministry, 1985-92; and parochial vicar at St. Charles Borromeo, Rochester, 1992-96. He has been pastor of St. Helen's since 1996.

He has also served as chaplain of the Horseheads Police Department, and was a Southern Tier representative on the Priest Committee for Vocations.

A jubilee Mass for Father Firpo will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, April 21, at St. Helen's. A reception will begin at 4 p.m. at the Diplomat Party House in Rochester.



John Forni considered the possibility of becoming a priest while he was studying chemistry at Boston College in Massachusetts.

His grandmother had encouraged him to enter the priesthood,

he said, and he was also influenced by the Jesuits at Boston College. Not ready to make the decision to enter the priesthood at that time, he moved on to Cornell University in Ithaca, where he completed graduate studies. It was through attending Sunday Mass and retreats at Mount Saviour Monastery in Pine City, outside of Elmira, while a student at Cornell that he finally made the decision to become a priest.

Father Forni's home parish is St. Peter's in Great Barrington, Mass., and he attended public schools in that community. After studying at Boston College and Cornell University, he attended St. Bernard's Seminary in Rochester. He was ordained by Bishop Dennis W. Hickey on April 22, 1977, at Holy Family Parish in Rochester, where he had served as deacon intern from 1976-77.

Following ordination, he served as administrator at St. Bridget's in Rochester from 1977-79; priest intern at St. John of Rochester in Fairport in 1980; associate pastor at Blessed Sacrament in Rochester from 1980-84; campus minister for the Cornell Catholic Community from 1984-81; and temporary administrator at St. John's in Clyde, St. Patrick's in Savannah and Holy Apostles in Rochester in 1992. He was pastor at St. Mary Magdalene in Wolcott, St. Thomas in Red Creek and St. Jude in Fair Haven from 1993-2000. Since 2000, he has been pastor at St. John the Evangelist in Greece. He also served on the board of the *Catholic Courier* from 1995-2001.

The variety of assignments and the challenge of creating an atmosphere of worship in very different settings are what Father Forni has most enjoyed about his years in the priesthood. He has ministered in inner-city environments, in rural parishes and in a college atmosphere.

He enjoyed returning to Cornell as a campus minister, organizing retreats and giving young people who are eager to learn the opportunity for different prayerful experiences during their formative years.

"That is something that's always been very important to me," Father Forni said. "I'm very glad I had those experiences."

A reception to celebrate Father Forni's jubilee will be held at St. John the Evangelist's parish hall from 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 28.



Father Matthew Kawiak grew up in St. Stanislaus Parish in Rochester. He attended King's Preparatory School and St. John Fisher College in Rochester, where he earned a bachelor's degree in psychology. He

also attended St. Bernard's Seminary and Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

He was ordained by Auxiliary Bishop Joseph McCaffrey on May 6, 1977, at St. Columba Parish in Caledonia. He had served as deacon intern at both St. Columba and St. Patrick's in Mumfords from 1976-77.

Father Kawiak was assistant pastor at St. Francis DeSales Parish in Geneva in 1977; assistant pastor at St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport from 1977-80; associate pastor at Church of the Annunciation and St. Stanislaus in Rochester in 1980; associate pastor at St. James in Rochester from 1981-84; associate pastor at Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Rochester from 1984-86; parochial vicar at St. John the Evangelist in Greece from 1986-87; parochial vicar at St. Boniface in Rochester from 1987-1992; chaplain at Strong Memorial Hospital from 1992-99; and parochial vicar at St. Patrick's in Victor in 2000. He is currently sacramental minister at the State University of New York College at Brockport, and has held that post since 2001.

A jubilee Mass for Father Kawiak will be celebrated at 2 p.m. Sunday, April 21, at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester, where Father Kawiak had lived and served as chaplain during his chaplaincy at Strong Memorial Hospital.



Father Joseph McCaffrey has been chaplain of the Auburn Correctional Facility and Butler Correctional Facilities since 2000.

He attended St. Bernard's Seminary and was ordained March 25, 1977. He served as assistant pastor at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Brockport from 1977-80. He served as associate pastor at St. Patrick's in Elmira from 1980-1982; St. Lawrence Parish in Rochester from 1982-1983; and at St. Mary in Dansville from 1983-86. He was also a part-time chaplain at Craig Developmental Center from 1983-84 and at Groveland Correctional Facility from 1984-86.

From 1986-93, Father McCaffrey was pastor of St. John the Evangelist in Newark Valley and St. Francis in Catawunk. He was pastor of Holy Cross in Dry-

den from 1993-94, and pastor of St. Anthony and St. Patrick in Elmira from 1994-2000.



Father Kevin McKenna has been pastor of St. Cecilia Parish in Irondequoit since 2000.

"I've been gratified for the opportunity to serve as a priest," he said. "I've received many blessings."

Father McKenna grew up in Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish, and attended the school there. He graduated from King's Preparatory High School in 1968, and attended St. John Fisher College, graduating in 1972. He received a master's of divinity degree from St. Bernard's Seminary in 1976, and received an M.A. from there in 1981. He also earned a master's degree in canon law from Gregorian University in Rome in 1984; a doctorate in canon law from the University of Ottawa in 1990; and a doctorate from St. Paul's University in Ottawa in 1991.

Father McKenna was ordained by Auxiliary Bishop John McCafferty, then-rector of Sacred Heart Cathedral, at St. Margaret Mary Church in Rochester on March 4, 1977.

Father McKenna served as deacon and priest intern at St. Margaret Mary from 1976-79. From 1979-82, he was associate pastor at St. Pius Tenth in Rochester. From 1982-84, he attended Gregorian University in Rome, and from 1984-88 he served as vice chancellor of the Diocese of Rochester. From 1988-1990, he attended St. Paul's University in Ottawa. From 1990 through 2001, he served as canonical consultant to the bishop; a judge in the diocesan Marriage Tribunal; and adjunct instructor of pastoral studies at St. Bernard's Institute.

He also served as director of diocesan Legal Services from 1990-2001, and as chancellor of the Diocese of Rochester from 1992-2001. He also served as a sacramental minister at St. Mary's in Scottsville from 1996-2000.

A member of the Canon Law Society of America, Father McKenna is currently serving as its president. He also is a member of the Canadian Canon Law Society; a guest lecturer at Roberts Wesleyan College in Rochester; and editor of *Legal Update*, a quarterly newsletter on canonical and civil law issues published by the Diocese of Rochester.

Father McKenna is also a published author, with several articles and books under his belt. His works include the books *A Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching: A Practical Resource for Pastoral Ministry*, published in 2002, and *A Concise Guide to Canon Law: A Practical Handbook for Pastoral Ministers*, published in 2000; and articles "The Clergy's Right of Confiden-

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This experience will include time for service, prayer, and relaxation.

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For more information call:
Vocation Ministry Office
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Or email sisters@osfsyr.org

The community of
St. Francis Church

in Phelps would like to

congratulate

Fr. Anthony Calimeri

for 55 years of
dedicated service to God.

"They came to know Him
in the breaking of bread."



CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR PASTOR

Father Forni

On His Silver Jubilee of Ordination



St. John the Evangelist Parish,
Greece, NY

Congratulations

Fr. Kevin McKenna

Silver
Anniversary

1977-2002



it is not ourselves
we preach but
Jesus Christ as Lord
2 Cor. 4:5

Our prayers are with you,
Your parishioners at St. Cecilia's!



**REV. CLARENCE
W. GARDNER**

for 60 years
in God's Service

The People of
St. Alphonsus
Give Thanks

