

DIOCESAN NEWS

Fr. Carges retires after 27 years in Tompkins Cty.

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

He's ministered for 27 years in Tompkins County, and has moved just a few miles north of the county line for his retirement. That fact should provide a fair gauge of Father Bernard L. Carges' love for the eastern end of the Rochester Diocese.

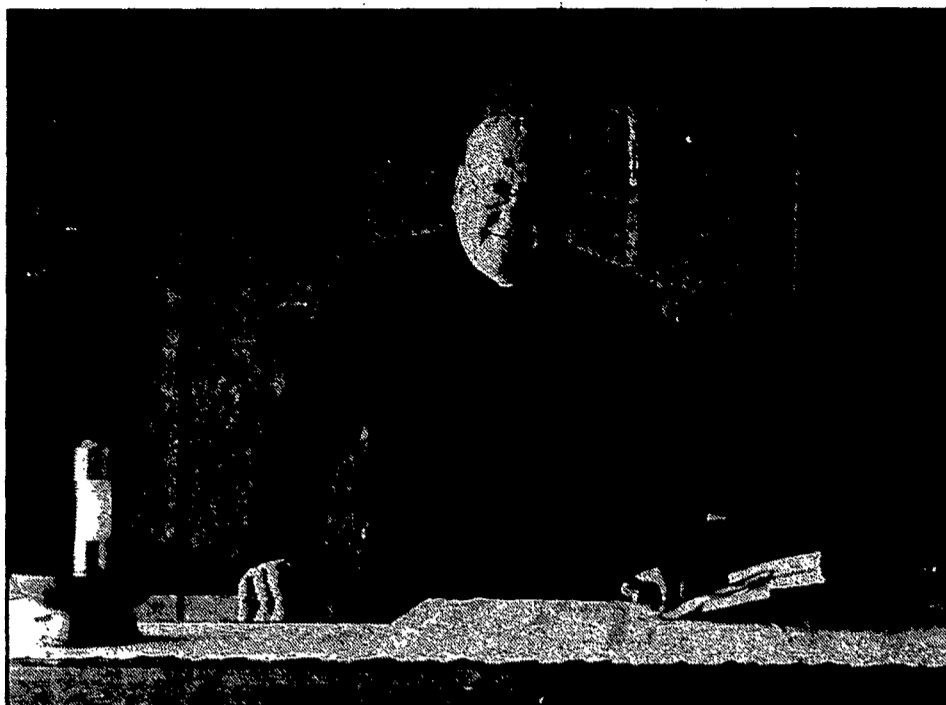
Father Carges, who turned 68 on June 3, retired June 25 from his pastorate at St. Anthony, Groton, and Holy Cross, Freeville/Dryden. He has been succeeded as pastor by Father Frank Lioi, who is moving to St. Anthony and Holy Cross after 13 years as pastor of St. Anne, Rochester.

Father Carges is a Rochester native who attended Holy Rosary School, St. Andrew's Seminary and St. Bernard's Seminary. He was ordained June 4, 1960, at Sacred Heart Cathedral by Bishop James E. Kearney.

He served as assistant pastor at St. Stephen's, Geneva, from 1960-65 before moving to Irondequoit's Bishop Kearney High School as chaplain from 1965-68. He was then assistant pastor at St. Alphonsus, Auburn (1968-72); Sacred Heart Cathedral (1972-74); and Our Lady of Lourdes, Brighton (1974-75).

In November 1975 he began his first pastorate at Ithaca's Immaculate Conception Parish, where he ended up spending the next 22 years — more than half his 42 years of full-time priestly duty. Father Carges says he relished living in this renowned hub of higher education.

"You have to know Ithaca, I think. It's a



Karin von Volgtlander/Staff photographer

Father Bernard L. Carges poses in the chapel at St. Anthony Parish in Groton June 21. Father Carges has retired as pastor of St. Anthony and Holy Cross Parish in Freeville/Dryden due to health problems.

very challenging, exciting, beautiful area of our diocese," Father Carges remarked. "Every day was completely different, pastorally speaking. There were a lot of challenges simply because the parish was so big and so varied. It was urban, suburban and rural — it had the highly educated, and there were those that couldn't even

write."

"We had all nationalities," he continued. "It was a mini-New York City in many ways. Culturally speaking, we had the opportunities you wouldn't find in many cities. As a Catholic community they were outstanding. I always felt. In a community that was not all Christian, the

Catholic faith held its own in many ways."

In 1997 Father Carges became the pastor at St. Anthony's in Groton, located further north in Tompkins County. "I didn't want to get too far away. I had wanted to keep my ties to Immaculate (Conception)," he said. One year later, Holy Cross in Freeville/Dryden — also in Tompkins County — was added to Father Carges' pastorate.

"I've enjoyed the people thoroughly here at St. Anthony's, and the same with Holy Cross," he commented.

However, Father Carges has had health difficulties in recent years, and that is why he recently decided to retire. He has relocated to his year-round cottage in King Ferry, located on Cayuga Lake in southern Cayuga County. He'd like to assist at St. Anthony's — "it's within 20 minutes," he said — and other area parishes as needed.

"Hopefully I'll be able to do as much as I can. I don't want to just stop completely," Father Carges said.

Asked about the most enjoyable aspects of his priesthood, he replied, "It's always been dealing with the people. They certainly appreciate anything you do for them, and they've always expressed that. I really have felt very supported and encouraged by the people I work with."

A retirement dinner for Father Carges will take place July 21 at St. Anthony's, beginning at 1 p.m. To make reservations, call St. Anthony's by July 8 at 607/898-5135.

Three men bring abuse lawsuit against diocese, Father O'Neill

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Three men have filed a lawsuit against the Diocese of Rochester and Father Robert O'Neill, a retired diocesan priest, for sexual abuses Father O'Neill is alleged to have committed more than 20 years ago.

The lawsuit was filed in state Supreme Court in Rochester on June 17. The plaintiffs are Jeffrey Mars, who currently resides in Florida, and two men who are referred to in the suit as "John Doe 45" and "John Doe 47." All of the abuses are alleged to have taken place in the late 1970s, when the three men were teenagers.

The plaintiffs' attorney, Jeffrey Anderson, said June 27 that the amount of damages being sought has yet to be determined. He added that he expected a response from the defendants "in a few weeks."

Michael Tedesco, diocesan director of communications, acknowledged that the lawsuit had been filed but offered no further comment.

Anderson said his investigation shows that Father O'Neill routinely took groups of boys to a cottage he owned outside of Rochester, where he said the abuses took place. Anderson added that he suspects Father O'Neill abused other teens in addition to the three plaintiffs. "Our investigation

has revealed there are a number of victims, each molested as a youth," he stated.

The lawsuit claims that all three plaintiffs have suffered and continue to suffer intense psychological and emotional damage that affects their quality of life. It also states that Mars reported his alleged abuse to diocesan officials in March or April of 2002, and that the other plaintiffs reported their abuse allegations in approximately June 2001 and March 2002, respectively.

The suit further charges that the Diocese of Rochester "misrepresented, concealed and/or failed to disclose information relating to sexual misconduct of Father O'Neill."

Father O'Neill, 65, was one of six priests removed by Bishop Matthew H. Clark on May 2 amid allegations that they had committed sexual abuse in the past. Father O'Neill is no longer allowed to continue in any form of ministry and cannot wear clerical clothing or live in any parish or diocesan residence. He had retired from the pastorate of St. Christopher in North Chili in June 2001 for health reasons.

Anderson, whose practice is based in St. Paul, Minn., says he has handled more than 1,000 sexual-abuse cases. Although he acknowledges having sued "every major denomination I can think of," more than 600 of Anderson's cases since 1983 have involved Catholic priests. Anderson says his efforts were often unpopular until this year, in which numerous priests across the country have been removed because of allegations of sexual abuse.

"I'm swamped right now, and I'm not complaining," Anderson said. "The good news is, what we've been saying and even screaming about for the last 20 years is coming to be believed for the first time."

Aquinas' Principal Goetting leaves post

Vilma Goetting, principal of Aquinas Institute since 1997, left her position June 19, and the Rochester Catholic high school is looking for an interim or permanent replacement, a school official said.

Frank Tripodi, chairman of the school's board of trustees, declined to say whether Goetting was fired or had left of her own accord, noting that the school does not comment publicly on personnel matters.

Goetting had worked at the school for 20 years, and had held positions as a science teacher and vice principal prior to being named principal in 1997.

Tripodi said the school is currently soliciting both internal and external applicants for a principal, and hopes to have a replacement hired by September.

— Rob Collins

Diocese honors several for work promoting life ethic

By Jennifer Burke
Editorial intern

The Diocese of Rochester honored several people at its seventh-annual Consistent Life Ethic Dinner and Vita Awards presentation in May.

The dinner took place at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Mendon, where Bishop Matthew H. Clark presented five Vita Awards and one Works of Love award. The Vita Award recognizes exemplary commitment to the protection of human life from conception through natural death, while Works of Love is a lifetime achievement award.

Vita Awards went to Amy Crossed-Rieck of Rochester; Brendan J. Curtin of Elmira; William Derby of Geneseo; Patricia Malach of Newark; and Mabel

Treadwell of Leicester.

Crossed-Rieck serves on the Feminists for Life Board of Directors, the Project Rachel organizing committee and is a delegate to the Women's Commission of the Catholic Diocese. She and her husband, Matthew, worship in the Roman Catholic Community of the 19th Ward and have three children, Charles, Grace and Malcolm.

Curtin, a professor at Corning Community College, works on behalf of Global Exchange, Amnesty International, Green Peace, Global Response and the Maryknoll Office of Peace and Justice. He has committed himself to writing one advocacy letter each business day on behalf of peace and justice issues. Curtin is a parishioner of St. Anthony/St. Patrick Parish in Elmira.

Derby serves on the Board of Directors of Catholic Charities of Livingston Coun-

ty and has been on the Diocesan Public Policy Committee since 1996. He and his wife, Mary, are members of St. Mary's Parish in Geneseo and worship with the Newman Community in Geneseo.

Malach helped establish the Legislative Advocacy Network of Western Wayne County, a computer network to keep members apprised of state and national legislation. She also participated in the March for Life in Washington, D.C., and the Public Policy Forum Day in Albany, and is instrumental in distributing Faithful Citizenship materials in her parish, St. Michael's in Newark.

Treadwell is the regional pastoral minister for St. Thomas Aquinas/St. Lucy Parish in Leicester/Retsof; coordinates the food pantry for St. Thomas Aquinas; is a member of the diocesan Public Policy Committee; and is involved with Catholic Charities of Livingston County. Treadwell is a parishioner of St. Lucy Parish.

The Works of Love award was presented to Mary Bigham Farren of Canandaigua, who was instrumental in the formation of Rochester's St. Joseph's House of Hospitality. A retired social worker, she is involved in the social-ministry committee at her parish, St. Mary's in Canandaigua. She and her family strive to live by the ideals of the Catholic Worker movement.

**Bishop Matthew H. Clark's
Along the Way column
will resume in August.**

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