

DIOCESAN NEWS

Gates parish gets pastor; Scottsville leader to leave

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Following the appointment of one pastoral leader last week, diocesan officials are now working to fill three other parish leadership positions.

Father George Okoth, pastor at St. Thomas Aquinas/St. Lucy in Leicester/Retsof, was named pastor of St. Theodore's in Gates on Aug. 6. He will begin his new pastorate Sept. 2, replacing Father Daniel Holland.

Father Okoth, a native of Kenya, has served in the Rochester Diocese since 1998. He has been pastor at St. Thomas Aquinas/St. Lucy since July 2000.

The opening at St. Theodore had come up when Father Holland assumed the pastorate of St. Pius Tenth Parish in Chili, which had become vacant May 2 when Bishop Matthew H. Clark received the resignation of Father Foster Rogers. The bishop had requested Father Rogers' resignation in response to what the diocese termed "credible" allegations that he had in the past sexually abused teenagers.

Less than a week before Father Okoth's new pastorate was finalized, Deacon Michael Mahoney announced that he is leaving as pastoral administrator at St. Mary of the Assumption in Scottsville, a post he has held since 1996. Father Michael Conboy, diocesan director of priest per-

sonnel, said Deacon Mahoney plans to vacate that post in late September to pursue personal interests, and is not seeking another position in parish administration.

Advertisements went out this week for the impending vacancies at both St. Thomas Aquinas/St. Lucy and St. Mary of the Assumption. According to Father Conboy, priests and those in the diocesan pastoral-administrator pool may apply for either opening. The diocesan Priests' Personnel Board will meet Aug. 30 to formulate a recommendation to Bishop Clark, Father Conboy said.

In other priest-personnel news, Father Conboy noted that Father Daniel Tormey, a retired diocesan priest, has been desig-

nated as priest-in-charge at St. Patrick's Parish in Seneca Falls. St. Patrick's former pastor, Father David Gramke, died July 31 — a little more than a month after beginning a leave of absence stemming from allegations that he had sexually abused a teenage girl in the late 1970s.

Father Conboy said Father Tormey will remain at St. Patrick's for approximately two months, and that the diocese will soon begin advertising for a permanent replacement.

Father Conboy also announced that Father Joseph Catanise will begin within the next few weeks as parochial vicar at St. Rita's Parish in Webster, leaving his chaplaincy at Rochester Institute of Technology.

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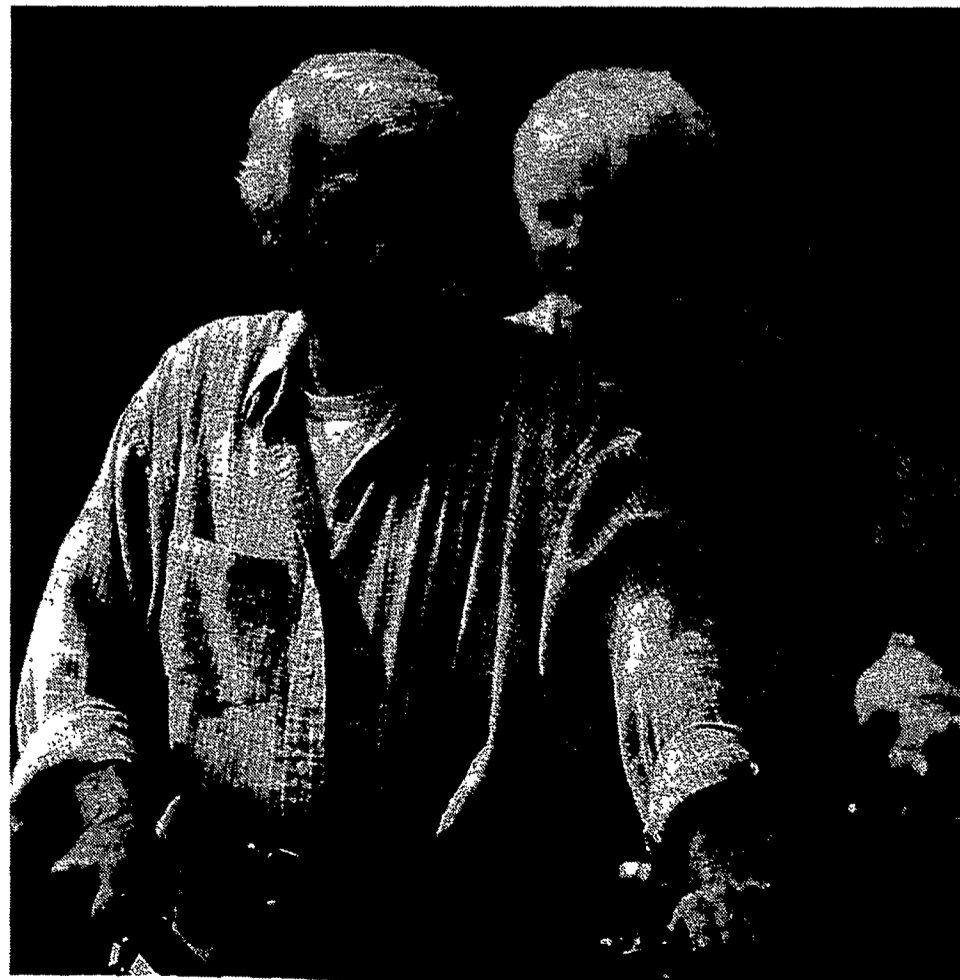


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