



During the ordination ceremony, priests line up for the Imposition of Hands, the essential act of ordination in which the bishop and priests lay their hands on the head of the candidate.

ORDINATION

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exitation from financial officer at Hornell's St. James Mercy Hospital — where he worked from 1988-96 — to the seminary.

"Today is a great day, one filled with pride because he's one of our (Hornell's) own," Father Jaeger said. "He'll make a great priest. He has a lot of caring and love for the people."

Also in attendance was Father Elmer Schmidt, the longtime St. Ann's pastor who is now retired. After the other clergy had concluded the ceremonial laying on of hands, Father Brewer went over to Father

Schmidt's wheelchair and knelt before him so his former pastor could bestow that blessing as well.

The ordination was a profound experience for Deacon William Coffas, who read the Gospel during Mass and is due to be ordained to the diocesan priesthood next year. Rather than imagine what his own ordination might be like, Deacon Coffas said he was more caught up in the moment of Father Brewer's commitment, which he related to John 13:15. In that verse, Jesus washes his disciples' feet and declares, "You also should do as I have done to you."

"The whole experience of service ... today he's dedicating his life to the church," Deacon Coffas remarked.



Rebecca Gosselin/Catholic Courier

Newly ordained Father Mark Brewer listens to words of congratulation from Father Elmer W. Heindl.



Father Mark Brewer is greeted by one of his fellow priests.

Father Brewer, 39, began that service almost immediately. On June 15 he celebrated his Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Ann's Church; later in the week he began as parochial vicar for St. Mary's Parish in Canandaigua.

Many family and friends journeyed from Hornell to be at Father Brewer's ordination; several even chartered a bus. Father Brewer said he also felt the presence of his late mother, Nancy.

"I was thinking about her through the whole thing. During the Gloria, she was singing with us," Father Brewer said. Nancy Brewer died March 11, nine days after watching her son be ordained a transitional deacon at St. Ann's Church.

"She's looking down on us, happy and proud," Jerry Brewer agreed. He added that his wife had been excited about their son's ordination even as she approached death. "She kept saying 'God has been good.'"

On ordination day, he was inclined to agree with that statement.

"God gave me three sons, and one of them to be a priest. I couldn't ask for anything more," Jerry Brewer said.

GREECE PRINCIPAL'S SON ORDAINED FOR BUFFALO

Father Joseph Zalacca, whose father Samuel is principal of Greece's Our Mother of Sorrows School, was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Buffalo on May 24.

Father Zalacca is a 1994 graduate of Batavia Notre Dame High School. He then attended Wadhams Hall Seminary College in Ogdensburg and Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora.

At 27 years old, Father Zalacca is the youngest priest in the Buffalo Diocese. He has been assigned as parochial vicar at St. John the Baptist Parish in Kenmore.

ROCHESTER NATIVE BECOMES JESUIT PRIEST

Rochester native Bernard F. McAniff was ordained a Jesuit priest in Chicago June 14.

He graduated from Bishop Kearney High School in 1973 and studied for one year at Georgetown University. He returned home during his sophomore year to care for his mother, Marcella, and his sister, Sheila. He eventually returned to school and graduated from Nazareth College in Rochester in 1989.

Father McAniff, 48, entered the Society of Jesus in 1992, and has since earned a master's degree in philosophy at Loyola University Chicago. He taught for three years at St. Xavier High School in Cincinnati, and earned a master of divinity degree from Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Mass. After his ordination, he will attend Harvard, where he plans to complete a master of education in school administration.

GENERAL

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