

# Fr. John Norris; longtime pastor

Jennifer Burke/Catholic Courier

Father John Norris, an priest of the Diocese of Rochester for more than 55 years, died Jan. 5, 2004, at the age of 82.

Father Norris was born in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1921 and emigrated to the United States with his parents when he was 7 years old. He attended St. Augustine's School, Aquinas Institute, St. Andrew's Seminary and St. Bernard's Seminary, all in Rochester. He was ordained by Bishop James E. Kearney on Oct. 19, 1946.

After his ordination, Father Norris was associate pastor at St. Mary's Parish in Auburn for six years, then served as associate pastor at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Greece, where he remained for five years. He later served as associate pastor at Auburn's Holy Family Parish from 1956-58 and Rochester's St. Boniface Parish from 1958-61.

In March 1961, Father Norris became chaplain for the State Agricultural and Industrial School at Industry, where he served until June 1968. During that time, he met Sister Janice Morgan, S.S.J., and the two remained friends.



"He was a man who loved life and lived it to the fullest," said Sister Morgan, president of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester. "He never was

afraid to state his opinion. He firmly believed in what he said and what he did. He was a strong man, but at the same time, very gentle. He was wonderful."

Sister Morgan said she knew Father Norris as a very giving man, but also one who was very fun-loving and adventurous.

Father Norris took that sense of adventure to Rochester's Blessed Sacrament Parish, where he was pastor from 1968-80. While he was there, he oversaw the founding of the first parish pastoral council in the diocese, according to a 2001 *Catholic Courier* article.

In 1980, Father Norris moved to Church of the Assumption Parish in Fairport, where he served as pastor until his retirement in 1991.

"He took the parish from the quiet village type of community into a

## Obituaries

large suburban community," said Father Edward Palumbos, Church of the Assumption's current pastor. "This was a special home for him and he really loved the people here."

Father Palumbos said that Father Norris was known for his love of golfing, as well as for his frank and direct manner.

"He related to people well. Once people got to know him, they got to know how genuine and sincere he really was," Father Palumbos said.

In 1996, Father Norris celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome with Pope John Paul II and 1,500 other priests from 85 countries who were also ordained in 1946.

He is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Nicholas and Betty Norris; his sister, Kathleen Glatz; and several nieces, nephews, cousins, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will preside at Father Norris' funeral Mass, which was to be held at 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 8 at Church of the Assumption. Internment will be in Church of the Assumption Cremation Columbarium.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse, 150 French Road, Rochester, NY 14618.

## Sr. M. Suzanne Delaney, 89

Sister of Mercy M. Suzanne Delaney, 89, died Nov. 7, 2003, at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse in Brighton.

Born in Binghamton, she attended New York State Teachers College in Albany and entered the congregation in 1933, receiving her bachelor's degree from Nazareth College in 1941.

Sister Delaney taught English and history at Mercy High School from 1934 to 1941. She then served as principal for seventh and eighth grades at St. Mary's in Corning until 1954. She then taught at Aquinas Institute, St. James and Annunciation schools in Rochester; St. Rita, Webster; and St. Patrick's and Notre Dame High School in Elmira. She retired in 1979 after assisting for 12 years in religious education at Annunciation Parish.

She is survived by her sisters, Suzanne Delaney Ogilvie, Frances Mary Saenz and Rita Lawrence; and the Sisters of Mercy.

Her funeral liturgy was celebrated at the motherhouse chapel on Nov. 10 by Father Celestine Obi, followed by interment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of Mercy, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester, NY 14610.

## Sr. M. Aelreda Leahy, SSND

Sister M. Aelreda Leahy of the School Sisters of Notre Dame died Nov. 30, 2003, at Norwalk Hospital in Norwalk, Conn. She was 86.

A teacher and administrator for more than 60 years, her service in the Diocese of Rochester was as a teacher at St. Peter and Paul School in Rochester.

Sister Leahy is survived by her brother, James Leahy of Wakefield, Mass.; her sisters, Margaret Cannon and Helen Flanders, both of Malden, Mass.; nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews; and her sisters in the congregation.

Her funeral liturgy was held in the province's motherhouse chapel on Dec. 3, 2003, with burial in Bethel, Conn.

Memorials may be made to SSND Development Fund, Wilton, CT 06897.

## JOIN US THIS WINTER!

JANUARY 2004

**11 RETREAT WEEKEND FOR MARRIED COUPLES** This special retreat is presented by a married couple, Deacon Rob Borchert and Lorne Borchert, who will talk about marriage and the Sacrament of Matrimony from the Old Testament and the New Testament. Discussion of marriage and the family and the Sacrament in today's world and today's Church will also be a focus to strengthen the uniqueness of each couple and to share their specialness with the Church. This is a grace-filled retreat for couples wanting to grow in their spirituality. Deacon Rob and Lorne minister at St. Mary's of the Lake Parish in Skaneateles, New York. Friday evening 6:00 (dinner) to Sunday morning. Offering \$200 per couple.

**13 A DAY OF MY OWN** This special opportunity is offered on the third Thursday of each month and will provide a sacred space for you to "take time out" just to be with God - a time to reflect, pray and be refreshed in any way that will nourish your spirit. Come when you want to just "be". Lunch will be provided. Offering \$12.

FEBRUARY

**10-11 WOMEN'S RETREAT DAYS "HOMECOMING: Earth Story, Our Story"**  
"The only way for us to heal, to recover, is to come home to the whole community of life where what we long for most deeply is touched." Minam McGillis. In this retreat we will use story, poetry, music and ritual to reflect on aspects of God's Great Story to discover how our personal journey and story connect with the universal journey. Presenter Sister Mary Ellen Curtin, CSJ creates Earth Weaver Learning Center in Syracuse, doing workshops, retreats and presentations in eco-spirituality, Celtic spirituality and the Story of the Universe. Time will be given to presentations. Mass prayer and personal reflection. Tuesday 10:00 - Wednesday 3:00 p.m. Offering \$65 includes all meals.

**19 A DAY OF MY OWN** (See the description for January 15)

MARCH

**10 "WALKING WITH JESUS FROM BETHLEHEM TO JERUSALEM"**  
This two-part presentation, co-sponsored by the Church Women United will be given by Nancy Ring, Ph.D., former chair of the Religious Studies Department and presently interim Dean of Arts and Sciences at LeMoyne College. Relying on the Scriptures, Dr. Ring will focus on the humanity of Jesus as he makes the journey from birth to resurrection, and the significance of that journey for us today. This particular presentation will center on Jesus' journey of the resurrection. Registration from 9:30 - coffee and snack available. First session 10:30; Lunch at noon. Second session - 1:30. Departure - 3:00 p.m. Offering \$15. Call to register.

**13 INTRODUCTION TO THE ENNEAGRAM** This workshop will introduce participants to the basics of the Enneagram, a journey of self-discovery. Knowledge of the Enneagram results in new self-understanding and brings us to greater personal healing and freedom under the direction of the Spirit. The workshop will be given by Father Jim Lauducci. 9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Offering \$25 includes lunch and all materials.



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