

Father Ryan leaves pastorate in Hamlin

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

Father Paul J. Ryan, a diocesan priest since 1973 and pastor of Hamlin's St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish since 1998, has stepped down from his pastorate due to health concerns.

The 58-year-old priest celebrated his final Mass at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Sunday, Feb. 1. Although Father Ryan is officially taking disability leave, the move essentially constitutes a retirement, according to Father Michael Conboy, diocesan director of priest personnel.

Father Ryan told the *Catholic Courier* that ongoing coronary disease led his doctors to advise that he leave ministry. Father Conboy said Bishop Matthew H. Clark has endorsed the recommendation by Father Ryan's doctors.

"Paul has offered great service through the years. We wish him well and we wish him better health," Father Conboy said.

Father Conboy said the diocese

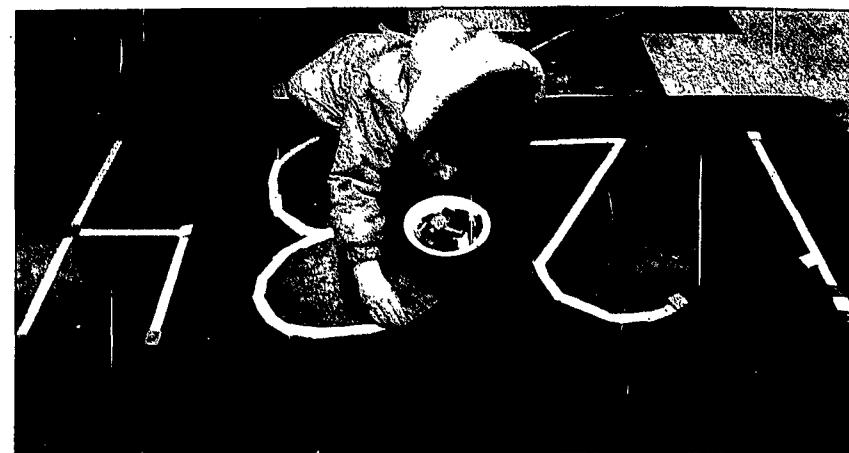


Mike Crupi/Catholic Courier

currently is searching for two people — a pastoral administrator and a sacramental minister — to temporarily fill the void created by Father Ryan's departure. He added that the diocese also will seek to replace Father Ryan on a permanent basis beginning June 29, 2004. Father Conboy noted that this opening is available to both priests and people from the diocesan pastoral administrators' pool.

Father Ryan said he is moving from Hamlin and plans to split his time between the Rochester area and spending time with family members in Florida and California. He will continue writing a book devoted to his great love of scuba diving, and would also like to someday resume teaching the sport.

At this point, Father Ryan said he's completely separating from all forms of ministry. He didn't rule out a return to ministry, but said, "I would only do it under the advisement of my doctors."



Mike Crupi/Catholic Courier

Easy as one, two, three

Three-year-old Kayla Saladyga, a prospective student at Spencerport's St. John the Evangelist School, tries out a numbers game Jan. 28 in Sue Pucillo's preschool classroom during an open house and ice-cream social at the school.

Father Ryan was ordained in 1973. From 1973-76 he was priest intern at St. Michael's, Penn Yan, while also serving as campus minister at Keuka College. From 1976-77 he was assisting priest at St. Patrick's, Elmira, as well as campus minister at Elmira College. From 1977-79 he was assisting priest at St. John the Evangelist, Greece.

Beginning in 1979, Father Ryan spent five years ministering to people with developmental disabilities at Newark Developmental Center. He then served for six years at the Diocese of Rochester's mission in

Tabasco, Mexico. In 1990 he took his first pastorate, overseeing four parishes in what was then known as the Cayuga Team Ministry. He served in Cayuga County for eight years before moving to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Father Ryan said he has greatly enjoyed his pastorate in Hamlin, as well as his role as chairperson for an advisory council on migrant farm workers — including many who labor in the Hamlin area.

"Hamlin has been a blessing ... the Lord has saved the best for last," Father Ryan commented.

Father LeFrois; teacher, chaplain

Benedictine Father Christian G. LeFrois, 84, a monk at St. Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pa., died Jan. 8, 2004.

Born in Webster, N.Y., he was one of five children, four of whom entered the priesthood. He attended Holy Rosary School and Aquinas Institute, both in Rochester, and received bachelor's degrees from St. Vincent College and St. Vincent Seminary and a master's degree in counseling from Our Lady of the Lake University in Texas. In 1940 he entered the Benedictine monastic community and was ordained at St. Vincent Archabbey Church in 1946.

Following teaching, coaching and parochial vicar assignments, he served as Air Force chaplain from 1952 to 1973. He retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel, having received several awards and com-



mendations for meritorious service, some of which occurred in combat in Vietnam.

He returned to teaching and parochial administration until ill health occasioned his return to the archabbey in the fall of 2003.

Father LeFrois is survived by his brother, Msgr. Marvin LeFrois of Valdosta, Ga. He was predeceased by his brothers, Father Vincent LeFrois and Jesuit Father Joseph LeFrois; and his sister, Rita Conrad.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Vincent Archabbey Basilica on Jan. 13.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Benedictine Health and Education Fund, 300 Fraser Purchase Road, Latrobe, PA 15650.

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