

firemen, sometimes directing traffic. Father Doyle said it's important for priests to "practice what they preach" and have a visible and positive presence in the community.

It's important "to be involved on the outside, beyond your church, as well as involved in the community. Reach out to those beyond your own church," Father Doyle said.



Father Elmer McDonald was raised in Rochester's St. Monica's Parish and attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, also in Rochester. He was ordained

by Bishop James E. Kearney at Rochester's Sacred Heart Cathedral on June 11, 1949.

He served as assistant pastor at Holy Rosary in Rochester until 1953, when he was released to become a chaplain in the U.S. Navy. In 1955, he became assistant pastor at Sacred Heart Cathedral, and was again released for Navy chaplaincy in 1956. He was assistant pastor at St. Francis DeSales in Geneva from 1960-64; assistant pastor at St. Augustine's in Rochester from 1964-68; and founding pastor of St. Christopher's in North Chili from 1968-75.

"I enjoyed starting St. Christopher's. It's every priest's dream to start a parish," Father McDonald said.

From 1975-77 he was pastor of St. John the Evangelist in Greece. In 1977 he became administrator of St. Mary's in Dansville. In 1978 he returned to St. Augustine's, this time as pastor. In 1979 he became chaplain for the Veterans Administration in Waco, Texas, where he served until 1982, when he moved to Bay Pines, Fla., to serve as chaplain for the VA there. In 1989 he returned to New York and again served as pastor of St. Christopher's for several months before returning to Florida to continue his VA chaplaincy. In 1991, he began assisting with Mass at St. John's in St. Pete Beach, Fla.

Father McDonald retired in 1995, but continues to work at the VA twice a week. He also says weekday Mass twice a week and helps with weekend Masses at St. John's.



Father Edward Steinkirchner is originally from St. Augustine's Parish in Rochester. He attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries in Rochester and was ordained June 11, 1949, by Bishop James E. Kearney at Rochester's Sacred Heart Cathedral.

He served as assistant pastor at Holy Trinity in Webster from 1949-

51; St. Boniface in Rochester from 1951-57; St. Michael's in Rochester from 1957-59; and Holy Apostles in Rochester from 1959-68. In 1968 he was named pastor of Holy Ghost Parish in Gates. In 1971, he also founded and became director of the Deacon Internship Program, which he ran for 12 years. In 1980 he left Holy Ghost and became pastor of St. Michael's in Newark, where he remained until his retirement in 1995.

50 YEARS



Father William Amann was raised in St. Boniface Parish in Rochester. He attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries in Rochester, as well as Catholic

University of America. He was ordained by Bishop James E. Kearney on June 5, 1954, at Rochester's Sacred Heart Cathedral.

He served as assistant pastor at St. Andrew's in Rochester from 1954-58; assistant pastor at Holy Trinity in Webster from 1958-62; chaplain of Bishop Kearney High School in 1962-65; assistant pastor at Our Lady of Mercy in Greece from 1965-74; copastor at Mercy from 1974-78; and pastor at Mercy from 1978-81. In 1981 Father Amann became administrator of St. Cecilia's in Elmira for several months before taking a sabbatical to study in Rome. Upon his return in 1982, he was named pastor of a new parish, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Hamlin.

"We built the church out of stone from the fields and wood and glass. Everyone contributed and we started our own traditions and own ways of doing things based on the new laws (of Vatican II)," Father Amann said.

Father Amann took another sabbatical in 1990, this time to study liberation theology and enculturation in Kenya and Tanzania.

"It was an eye-opener and a great experience. I gained a new confidence and competence in my priesthood," Father Amann said.

Father Amann retired from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in 1998, when he moved to Our Lady of Lourdes in Brighton. In 2001 he moved to St. Thomas More, also in Brighton, where he currently resides.



Father Bruce Ammering grew up in St. Monica's Parish in Rochester. He completed his seminary studies at Rochester's St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries and was ordained June 5, 1954, by Bishop James E. Kearney at Rochester's Sacred Heart Cathedral.

He served as assistant pastor at St.

Patrick's in Owego from 1954-57; St. Aloysius in Auburn for a short time in 1957; and St. Mary's in Waterloo from 1957-58. In 1958, he became chaplain at Monroe Community Hospital, where he remained until 1983.

"It was a wonderful time to be chaplain," Father Ammering said, noting that every assignment was enjoyable, regardless of the length of time he spent there.

In 1983 Father Ammering was named pastor of Blessed Sacrament in Rochester, where he remained until his retirement in 2000. He currently resides at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Rochester.



Father Joseph Brennan was raised in Rochester's Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish and attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, also in Rochester. He was ordained in Rome on

Dec. 8, 1954, by Bishop Martin J. O'Connor. He received his licentiate in sacred theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome in 1955 and his licentiate in sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome in 1957.

Later that year, he became assistant pastor at St. Jerome's in East Rochester. In 1958 he became a professor of sacred Scripture at St. Bernard's Seminary, then was

named its rector in 1966. In 1980 he was named dean of St. Edmund's College, a graduate college of the University of Cambridge, England. Father Brennan served as pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption in Scottsville from 1983-86 and as temporary administrator of the parish for one month in 1988. He was named director of religious affairs at the University of Rochester in 1986.

Father Brennan retired in 1996 but continues to teach courses at Temple B'rith Kodesh, and is known locally as a leader in Jewish-Christian relations. He has found both his scholastic and pastoral ministries to be very rewarding, he said.

"I've always loved teaching Scripture and continue to do that. When I was still a student in Rome I spent some time in Israel studying. I studied modern Hebrew, and that kind of got me interested in the Jewish community today, not just the Jewish community of 2,000 years ago," Father Brennan said.



Father Gerald Connor was raised in Sacred Heart Cathedral Parish in Rochester and completed his seminary studies at Rochester's St. Bernard's Seminary. He was

ordained by Bishop James E. Kearney. **Continued on page B8**

Congratulations to
REV. FR. GERALD CONNOR
(Monsignor)

You have reached a landmark that some never see. We, the pastor, pastoral staff, pastoral council, and all the members of St. Theodore's Church would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the contribution you have made in helping us respond to our baptismal call. We know that the growth of our faith is largely dependent on having strong and capable priests, such as yourself.

Accept our congratulations on your fiftieth anniversary. We trust that the richest blessing God holds may be yours.

