

Father Jim Williams Retires After 37 Years

By Karen Gould

St. Ignace Loyola Catholic Church in St. Ignace was filled to overflowing Sunday, May 27, as parishioners gathered to commemorate the retirement of Father James Williams, who has been their pastor for the last two years. He also served as parish priest for Immaculate Conception in Moran.

Retiring after 37 years of priesthood, Fr. Williams often has been described as a "people person," a skilled speaker who was known for his unrehearsed prayers.

"He could come up with a prayer at any occasion, any time, and it was always very meaningful," said Deacon Don Olmstead.

Deacon Tom McClelland agrees. "He touched people by his personal, spontaneous prayers," he said. "They were very spiritual and very pertinent to the reality that is a part of people's lives."

Fr. Williams, who will turn 66 years old in November, often quoted poets W.H. Auden, William Yates, and T.S. Eliot in his homilies and always passed up using the lectern in favor of offering his message from the center aisle.

Rather than give a final homily Sunday, he asked his good friend,

Brother James Boynton, to give the message. The two men worked together at Ste. Anne's Church on Mackinac Island for 12 years. In fact, in Ste. Anne's 337-year history, Fr. Williams is the third-longest serving priest, having been there 15 years.

After running the Memorial Bridge Run across the Mackinac Bridge the day before, Br. Boynton presented Fr. Williams with his race T-shirt and medal.

"He is the best priest I know," Br. Boynton told parishioners.

Fr. Williams' style as a pastor was to empower others to do things for the community, Deacon McClelland said, and he encouraged parishioners to take on leadership roles.

"He is very generous with praise to people who do these things to go out and help others," he said.

"All things are possible in this parish," Fr. Williams said. "I loved it here."

After Sunday's service and during a potluck dinner in the parish hall, Fr. Williams was recognized for establishing two local organizations, Narcotics Anonymous and Gamblers Anonymous.

"You've challenged us," said

Deacon McClelland. "You've worked hard to get us to move our faith from our heads to our hearts."

"He's been a great teacher," said Deacon Olmstead. "One of the things I admire about him is that I could always call on him. He was never any further away than my telephone."

Fr. Williams said he considered delaying his retirement, although something told him it was time to retire.

"I'm not retiring because I am not happy here. You are great people, a great parish," he said. "There is something, I can't even verbalize it, there is something that tells me that this is the time for me to do this."

He said he had a great day on Mackinac Island Saturday, having two private meetings, one with Governor Jennifer Granholm and a second with Bishop Alexander Sample.

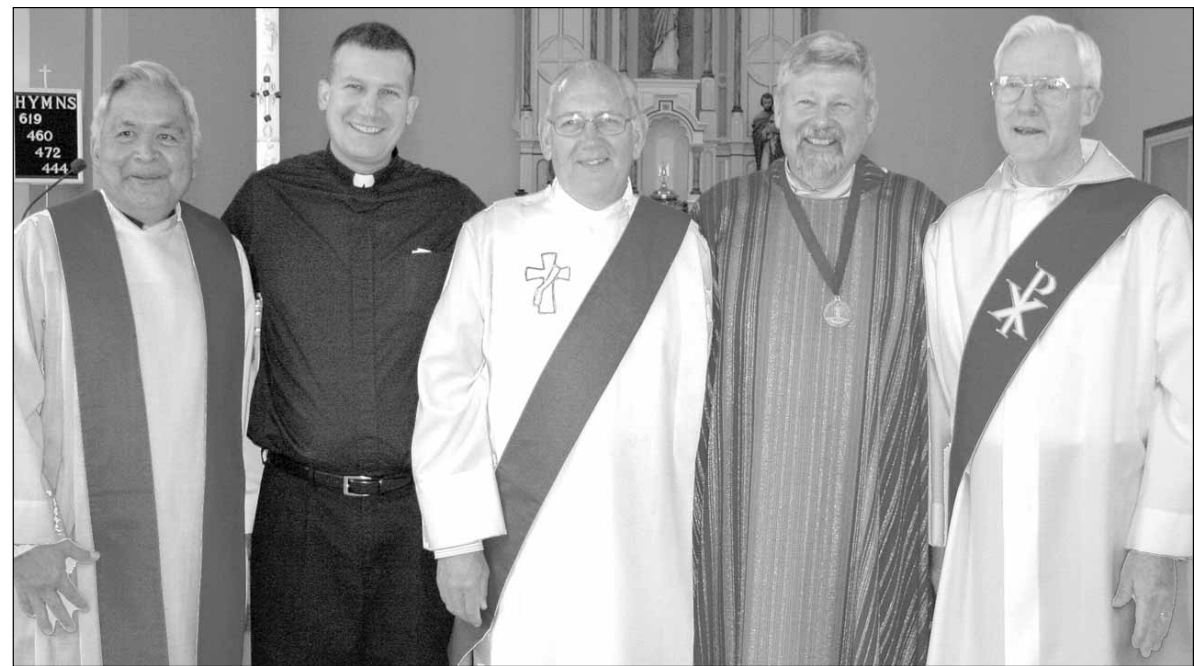
He told both of them that next Sunday he plans to sleep in, have a leisurely cup of coffee, and watch the political television show, "Meet The Press."

He and Bishop Sample have discussed the future and he said that after a period of time, if the parish asks him to come back to help, he would.

"I will disappear from the parish for awhile. It is an old Jesuit tradition," he said, "so you can let go of me."

Fr. Williams said he would like to leave his parishioners with the message that they can face the challenges of life, and they should not be faced alone.

"God always surprises us, he startles us," said Fr. Williams. "When he enters our life, he always does it in unexpected ways. So, the first impulse is to say, 'Where is God?' because it is not what we



Father James Williams (second from right), priest for St. Ignace Loyola Church in St. Ignace and Immaculate Conception in Moran, retired Sunday, May 27. For his last Mass in St. Ignace as Parish pastor, he was joined by (from left) Father Rey Garcia, SJ, pastor of Ste. Anne's on Mackinac Island, Brother James Boynton, SJ, summer program helper at Ste. Anne's and the vocation director for the Jesuits Detroit Province, and Deacons Donald Olmstead and Thomas McClelland, both of St. Ignace.

expect. But if you have faith, if you continue to listen, you'll discover that he is there. Generally he is there in the form of a cross.

"Then the message is what Jesus said, 'All things work to the good for those who love the Lord.' And that means, don't run from whatever the issue is, be quiet, be still, and you'll discover that no matter what, all is well.

"There is nothing that comes your way that you can't handle with God, if you understand that he probably is going to overturn your apple cart. It's because he's going to lead you in places where you couldn't think of yourself, and you might not go," he said. "Then, if you go along with him, then all is well.

"The main problem people have in understanding the cross is they always say God never gave you a cross too big you can't carry," said Fr. Williams. "The meaning of

every cross is that it is always too big to carry by yourself. Every cross means you have to turn to the spirit of God and to other people, not just you. When you do that, that's when you discover He's with you."

Fr. Williams, a resident of Mackinaw City, was graduated from the University of Michigan, where he studied history, literature, and philosophy. He grew up in the Methodist faith and was converted to Catholicism by the late Fr. Bill McGee, whom he met after working on Isle Royale for a summer. After college, he taught English for a year in Sault Ste. Marie.

In the 1960s, Fr. Williams worked with inner city poor people in Detroit, New York, and in Mexico.

He was ordained in 1970 on the Indian reservation at St. Kateri Tekakwitha's Mission near Bay Mills.

"I was the first person to be ordained outside the cathedral in 100 years," he said. "I was ordained right on the reservation."

For seven years, he worked on the reservation in Bay Mills during the week. To earn a salary, he said early Sunday Mass at St. Ignace.

He then served in Hannahville, west of Escanaba, where he provided a foster home for 12 boys, often

referring to them in his homilies. From there he went to Grand Marais before entering the U.S. Navy, where he served as chaplain for four years. He then served in the U.S. Marine Corps, where he was a battle group chaplain for six years. He is a member of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He was a pastor at St. Gregory's in Newberry and then at Ste. Anne's on Mackinac Island before coming to St. Ignace to help his close friend, the late Fr. Mike Rhoades, when he was diagnosed with cancer.

In retirement he plans to remain active in the community, he told parishioners. He is a member of the Drug Court, the Straits Health Care Enterprise Fund, which is the foundation board for the new Mackinac Straits Hospital, and the Mackinac Island State Park Commission. He is writing two books, one, of poetry, is almost finished, he said.

"One thing about the priesthood for me is it has given me about four different lifetimes," said Fr. Williams. "I was able to raise children. I was able to go into the military. I was able to work with different minority groups. It afforded me a variety of things I couldn't have done any other way. It's been a real adventure."

MORAN TOWNSHIP ACCEPTING BIDS

Moran Township is requesting bids for construction of a 24' x 24' x 8' metal pole building at the site of the Moran Township Hall:

- 9' x 7' Insulated Roll Up Door
- Pre-hung Insulated 32" Service Door
- Poured concrete floor
- 10' x 12' x 8' cement block room with reinforced concrete ceiling and 2 hour 36" fire door
- Wire for 220V 60 AMP service

Bids will be opened at the regular township meeting, Wednesday, June 6, 2007 at 6:00 PM at the Ozark School House on M-123.

Bids will be due by Tuesday, June 5, 2007 at 12:00 Noon.

Detailed plans available at the Moran Township Hall. Call 906 643-8027

FIRE RUN CHARGES ORDINANCE TROUT LAKE TOWNSHIP

An Ordinance to establish charges for fire department services under Michigan Public Act 33 of 1951, as amended (MCL 41.801 etc.), and to provide methods for the collection of such charge and exemption therefrom.

The Township of Trout Lake, Chippewa County, Michigan ordains:

Section 1: Purpose

The within ordinance is adopted for the purpose of providing financial assistance to the township in the operation of a fire department from those receiving direct benefits from the fire protection service. It is the further purpose of the within ordinance to provide for full funding of the fire department operations which remains, in part, an at-large government expense based upon the general benefits derived by all property owned within the township from the existence of a township fire department, its availability to extinguish fires within the township and performance of emergency services.

Section 2: Charges

The following charges shall hereafter be due and payable to the township from a recipient of the following enumerated services from the township fire department. Charges are a fee per truck per fire run:

- NO. 1 FIRE ENGINE TANKER\$450.00
- NO. 2 FIRE ENGINE PUMPER\$450.00
- NO. 2 FIRE ENGINE PUMPER WITH FOAM\$500.00
- NO. 4 RESCUE EXTRICATION TRUCK\$500.00

Section 3: Time for payment run

All of the foregoing charges shall be due and payable within 30 days from the date of service is rendered, and in default of payment shall be collectible through proceedings in district court or in any other court of competent jurisdiction as a matured dept.

Section : Exemptions

The following properties and services shall be exempt from the foregoing charges.

- A. Fires involving township buildings, grounds, and/or property.
- B. Fires performed outside of jurisdiction under mutual aid.
- C. Fires caused by railroad trains, which are specific statutory responsibility of railroad companies.

Section 5 : Collection of charges

The township may proceed in district court by suit to collect any monies remaining unpaid and shall have any and all other remedies provided by law for the collection of said charges.

Section 6 : Non-Exclusive charge

The foregoing rates and charges shall not be exclusive of the charges that may be made by the township for the costs and expenses of maintaining a fire department, but shall only be supplemental thereto. Charges may additionally be collected by the township through general taxation after a vote of the electorate approving the same or by a special assessment established under the Michigan statutes pertinent thereto. General fund appropriations may also be made to cover such additional costs and expenses.

Section 7 : Multiple property protection

When a particular service rendered by the township fire department directly benefits more than one person or property, the owner of each property so benefited and each person so benefited where property protection is not involved shall be liable for the payment of the full charge for such service herein before outlined. The interpretation and application and application of the within section is hereby delegated to the township fire chief subject only to appeal, within the time limits for payment, to the township board and shall be administered so that charges be collected for the recipients of the service.

Section 8 : Severability

Should any provision or part of the within ordinance be declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, the same shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the balance of this ordinance which shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 9 :

This ordinance shall take effect on June 07, 2007; all ordinances in conflict are hereby repealed.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Eastern U.P. Solid Waste Planning Committee recently approved the submittal of a draft amendment to the Eastern U.P. Regional Solid Waste Management Plan to add the Elk Run Landfill in Presque Isle County as a primary landfill which could receive waste from Eastern U.P. Communities. This Public Notice initiates a 90 day review period. A Public Hearing will be held during the review period. A notice of the Hearing will appear in this newspaper not less than 30 days prior to the Hearing. A Copy of the Draft Amended Solid Waste Management Plan will be on hand for review at the following locations:

- Luce County Clerk's Office - Newberry, MI
- Mackinac County Clerk's Office - St. Ignace, MI
- Bayliss Public Library - Sault Ste. Marie, MI
- EUP Regional Planning & Development Commission Offices - Sault Ste. Marie, MI

NOTICE OF COMMUNITY CLEANUP

Brevort Township Residents Only
12th Annual Cleanup
Saturday, June 2nd, 2007
8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dumpsters will be located at Brevort Township Community Center and available for the Township Residents Only.

A limit of two pickup loads per family is allowed. Deposit of material on the grounds before or after the posted hours is not permitted.

Volunteers will be available to assist residents with unloading.

ITEMS THAT CANNOT BE ACCEPTED: Appliances that once contained freon that do not have proof of freon removal, no batteries, no chemicals, oils or paint. No concrete or construction materials, brush, yard clippings, railroad ties or old tires.

Separate dumpsters will be available for metal & scrap iron articles.

Let's Get Together and Keep Brevort Township Clean!

Brevort Township Clerk
 Susan R. Stelzer

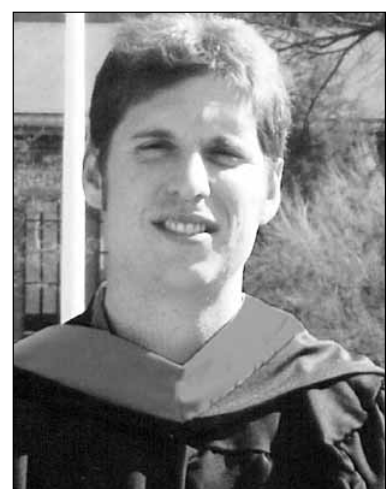
Winkelman Earns Master's Degree

Andy Winkelman, originally of St. Ignace, has received a masters' degree from the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan.

Mr. Winkelman was awarded the Dr. Lee C. Bollinger Scholarship for being the top student in the program. In the fall, Mr. Winkelman will pursue a doctorate at the School of Natural Resources at the University of Michigan.

He was graduated from LaSalle High School in St. Ignace in 1993 and received a Bachelor of Science in Oceanography from the University of Michigan in 1997. He has worked at the Great Lakes Environmental Laboratory in Ann Arbor for six years, as well as spending two years in the United States Peace Corps in Niger, West Africa.

Mr. Winkelman is the son of Kathy Winkelman of Lapeer and Rob Winkelman of St. Ignace. He is the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Durwood Carnean and Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Winkelman, all of St. Ignace, and is married to Emily MacGuire of Lenoir, North Carolina.



Andy Winkelman

Council: Nets Donated to City

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has donated used nets for the city's tennis court on the corner of Truckey and Spring streets, Councilwoman Susan Massaway reported, and the St. Ignace Community Foundation has awarded \$3,000 for the tennis court repairs, she added.

A new small plaque is displayed on the mayor's gavel box, showing a list of mayors of the city since 1883, the year St. Ignace officially became a city. Mayor Grondin is donating a framed list of the city's past clerks, attorneys, managers, and council members to be displayed at City Hall.

Council approved Susan Cook's request for a taxi cab driver license. Originally from Carleton, she now resides in St. Ignace.

Containers have been installed at the St. Ignace Public Marina for disposal of cigarette butts, reported Mr. Elmer, who supervises the facility. Even though the facility is smoke-free, Mr. Elmer said he would rather have someone throw cigarette butts in a contained area rather than on the wooden decks. Staff radios and a work boat's motor have been upgraded. Mr. Elmer said he received newer radios from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. The old boat motor, he said, cost \$2,000 and was traded in for \$1,900. The new motor was purchased for \$500.

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