The Rev. Eugene G. Eno was ordained in 1961. Map shows a list of his assignments.

1. June 1961: Assistant Pastor, St. Patrick Church, Oswego, Tioga County.
2. June 1962: Assistant Pastor, St. Crisca Church, 2732 Corve Drive, Irondequoit.
3. June 1963: Assistant Pastor, St. Mary Church, Darienville.
4. June 1964: Assistant Pastor, St. Margaret Mary Church, Apalachin, Tioga County.
5. June 1967: Associate Pastor, St. Michael Church, Newark, Wayne County.
7. June 1968: Pastor, St. Mary Church, Geneseo, Livingston County.
8. October 1968: Associate Pastor, St. Francis DeSales, Geneva.

“Father Robert Ring (director of Diocesan personnel) came down here and he said an awful lot, but he didn’t tell us anything,” Schible said. “It was just a lot of under-thet-rug sweeping.”

Diocese spokeswoman Liz Brown said last night that Eno was removed from Naples in 1993 because “it was clear there were some problems, some inappropriate behavior, and he needed to be evaluated and treated.”

Brown said she didn’t know if Eno had been relieved of ministerial duty at other locations because of similar problems.

“I’m not privy to personnel records,” Brown said.

Schible said the priest was removed from St. Januarius after the parish committee discovered funds missing, and Eno “tried to cover up” for young male church members believed to have stolen the money.

A church conference confronted Eno and asked the Diocese to stop him in a meeting in Naples in 1993 about the missing church funds.

“Father Eno is educated in psychology and he could know an awful lot of people,” Schible said. “But this is a terrible thing for the Diocese, and I’m just going to pray for the man.”

Father Eno, 58, is a member of the parish council, said the church would “put all time on hold” in the months before Eno was removed three years ago.

Casey said it’s “unfortunate” that the Diocese “just clustered him away for awhile” without assuring that Eno had received adequate counseling and treatment.

Schible, Casey and other church members, including former Naples police captain Michael Robinson, yesterday criticized Diocese authorities for failing to “be honest” with parishioners about Eno’s suspected problems.

“It’s just too bad this thing wasn’t headed off years ago,” Schible said.

“When Father Eno first came to Naples, he did a lot of great things for the parish and we thought ‘This guy’s all right,’” Robinson said.

Robinson said the charges against Eno and recent publicity involving child abuse scandals involving other priests in other parts of the country are a powerful argument against the Catholic Church’s requirement that priests remain unmarried and celibate.

Schible agrees.

“If a priest breaks his vows with a woman, he’s out of the priesthood,” Robinson said. “If they play around with children or with another man, they just get transferred to another parish.”

“If that’s a scandal in the church and in society today that’s just beyond my own comprehension. It’s a real sin.”

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stock felt by parishioners upon learning of Eno’s arrest is typical. “They shouldn’t feel alone,” said David Chaboty, SPAN’s national director. “We have that all the time. To rob a bank, you need a weapon. To molest a kid, you need charm and charisma all the rest. They are the same traits that enable them access to kids. The reason they get by with it so many years is because they appear to be very charismatic and charming.”

Dr. Richard Sipe, a psychotherapist at Johns Hopkins University and a former Catholic priest, said 8 percent of Catholic priests get sexually involved with minors. Comparative studies among other denominations or the general public have not been done, he said.

Sipe, who wrote Sex, Priests and Power: Anatomy of a Crisis, said there have been 800 cases of Catholic priests who have been charged with sex offenses and 1,500 priests who underwent treatment for sexual problems in the past 10 years. “Sexual abuse by professional people is always a violation of power,” Sipe said. It’s an abuse of power, even if the subject seems compliant.”

In Naples, Ontario County, few members of the congregation at St. Januarius Church were surprised to learn of Eno’s arrest. “We’ve known for some time that Father Eno is a man who has a very serious problem,” said David Schible, a member of the St. Januarius parish council.

Schible and other members of the Naples church said yesterday that Eno left town “suddenly and mysteriously” in the midst of allegations of financial and sexual improprieties and that diocese officials never explained their reasons for the transfer.

By GREG LIVADAS

While parishioners at Holy Trinity Church in Webster expressed shock at the Rev. Eugene Eno’s arrest on sex abuse charges, others who remember him from previous assignments said they were not surprised.

They said the charming priest had an affinity for teen-age boys that made some of his young parishioners uncomfortable.

But that discomfort rarely made its way out into the open as Eno was transferred from parish to parish, holding more than a dozen different pastoral positions in 30-odd years.

Father Holkrader, who served as an altar boy at St. Cecilia Church in Irondequoit in the 1960s, recalled that he had been fond of Eno and another teen-age boy.

He’d invite them to the family cabin, but there was no family there, Holkrader said. "There were four or five of us at a time. We thought was something special, being the chosen ones.

He said the boys would do chores around the property during the day, then sit around a fireplace in the evening.

"He’d start to wrestle us," Holkrader said. "He would grab me and wrestle and he wouldn’t let up. It would go on for 15 minutes or a half hour at a time. I felt uncomfortable about it.

"He would grab your crotch, but he would do it in a wrestling way, so you didn’t think much of it," Holkrader said. "If you complained, he’d just say, ‘Remember, I’m a priest.”

But Webster Mayor Wilbur "Deke" Buh, who attended Mass every time Eno was at Holy Trinity, said he was stunned by the news.

"It was totally out of the blue to me, and I’m an active parishioner," he said. "It just proves everybody’s human, including a priest."

Parishioners in Webster describe Eno as articulate and well-read with a great sense of humor.

"The first Sunday he was here, he probably gave the best homily I ever heard," Buh said.

"He has a wealth of knowledge about a lot of things and could explain stuff to you," one parishioner said.

"He was just flabbergasted," one woman said. "I just can’t fathom it."

A spokesman for the Survivors Network of those Abused By Priests, a 2,000-member support group based in Chicago, said the