Their Best Fan Is Going Home

By Richard A. Beardsley

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Is Going Home

By RICHARD A. BEARDSLEY

East Greenwich will lose a delightful Irish Leaguer and a touch of Old World wisdom this Thursday.

The Rev. Brendan J. Smyth, C.R.P., will leave them to return to the Norbertine Abbey of Kilnacott in County Cavan, Ireland, after being “on loan” to Our Lady of Mercy Church for almost three years.

He will take with him memories—both fond and perplexing—and leave behind the memory of a man whose love of children and letting “Ir’s” and “o’s” brightened the town and the lives of many in it.

Looking back on his stay, the 39-year-old native of Belfast, Northern Ireland, stated, “Rat Race probably best describes the way Americans live.

“T’ve never seen people live at such a pace. But it has its compensations. There seems to be far less trouble when you pick up the phone and try to get someone to do something for the church than there is back in Ireland.

“But even your recreation seems filled with pressure.”

Recreation, especially children’s recreation, has played a big part in his stay locally.

Since his arrival in the summer of 1966, he has helped to rejuvenate the local CYO and given hours of unofficial attention to the girl scouts.

But it has been basketball as much as anything that has caught his eye in America.

“I enjoy watching college and professional games on television but I’ve become more interested about basketball at the parish level.”

During his stay in East Greenwich, he has organized teams for both boys and girls at Our Lady of Mercy. And last Friday night, less than a week before his departure, he was still giving his own time to be with the youngsters at the gym.

“The interest shown to youngsters in this country is wonderful. I’ve been most impressed with Little League and the enthusiasm that parents have, although sometimes they might show a little too much,” he added with a broad grin.

“One thing that’s been a little difficult to get used to, though,” he continued, “is the way parents are prevailed on to take the children everywhere. At times it seems like the parent’s primary function is to be a chauffeur.

“Perhaps,” he concluded more hopefully, “youngsters in Ireland walk more often because it’s safer to leave them out on the streets at night.”

For his own family, Father Smyth, adhering to Irish traditions, finds them a big reason he is anxious to return to his homeland.

“I haven’t traveled since coming to America because I can’t afford two vacations and I want the opportunity to visit with my father in Belfast when I get back to Ireland.”

Since his mother passed away about 10 years ago I try to get home whenever possible!”

His father retired last year as an auctioneer. He has one brother, who is married and

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Sooner Than Town

By RUDOLPH A. HEIL

Despite a recommen
dation to the contrary, there is indication that Northtown might try to start on a new police station coming fiscal year.

The recently formed budget committee recently released its budget proposals for five years, has recommend that the town not build a new police station fiscal 1969-70.

However, at least on official and at least the majority of the police officers who would like the station built.

Harry G. Hug, first assistant, said last week in favor of starting the new station this coming year.

Mr. Hug, who is in charge of the town’s public safety center, the overcrowded conditions at the town’s police station and the situation will get worse.

Mr. Hug is prepared budget for the town
members of the reserve. Other officers installed last night were Anthony Narciso, first lieutenant, James Cassidy, but they must maintain them.

E. Greenwich Losing A Bit of Ireland

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lives in Whitehead, also in Northern Ireland.

"It's not really much of a family, for an Irish family; that is," he chuckled.

The Norbertine Abbey he will return to is of the Order of Premonstre. Their motto, "Prepare for every good work," Father Smyth's vocation seems to have afforded him the opportunity.

In the almost 17 years he has been a priest, he has taught seminarians in Ireland, studied in Rome and done parish and mission work in England, Scotland and Wales.

"As an order we don't specialize in any single facet of the priesthood," he explained. "We are trained to do most anything."

He went on to tell how unusual it is for someone from the abbey to come to America. "It happens that the bishop here (the Most Rev. Russell J. McVinney, D.D.) is friends with my abbot in Kilmacritt. The bishop's forefathers come from a town nearby the abbey and he has visited us on occasion.

"When he asked for a priest to be loaned to the diocese I was fortunate to be available at the time."

The fact that he will be back in Ireland to celebrate St. Patrick's Day made him laugh with delight.

"The celebration as you know is practiced only here in America. In Ireland, it's a Holy Day of Obligation and besides it always falls during Lent and dancing and other such carrying on for some reason seems to be curbed during Lent in Ireland."

Father Smyth is not sure what future good works are awaiting his return to Kilmacritt. "That will be up to the abbot," he smiled. "I'll just have to wait and see what needs doing."

Perhaps the success he has had in this country will lead the abbot to let the youngsters of County Cavan try their hand at basketball.

School Bond

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qualification in a Virginia case a couple of years ago.

The taxpayers' suit reportedly threatened now would be brought by someone other than the Rosatis, it was learned.

Meanwhile, the town council is busy wrestling with budget requests for the annual turn.