



FATHER BESSETTE



FATHER KELIHER

The Anchor May 14, 1981

## Pastors to retire

Effective Wednesday, June 10, Father Ernest E. Besette will retire from the pastorate of St. Joseph parish, Attleboro and Father Cornelius E. Keliher will retire from the same position at St. Mary Parish, North Attleboro.

Between them, the veteran pastors have served in the priesthood a total of 92 years.

Father Keliher, born in Taunton, attended Immaculate Conception grammar school and St. Mary's High School in that city. He attended Boston College for two years, then entering St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester. He was ordained May 21, 1932, by the late Bishop James E. Cassidy.

He was associate pastor at St. Patrick's Church, Wareham, Our Lady of the Assumption, Osterville, and St. Louis, Fall River, before joining the U.S. Navy as a chaplain. He served in the chaplain corps from 1944 to 1946.

Returning to the diocese he was assigned as associate pastor at SS. Peter and Paul parish, Fall River, where he remained until 1956, when he was named pastor of St. Mary's parish, Seekonk. He was transferred to his present assignment in 1971.

For many years he was moderator of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Nurses and he is now Attleboro area moderator of the organization. He taught for many years at the former St. Anne's Hospital School of Nursing and has also served on the Diocesan Board of Education and as chaplain of Benedict Circle, North Attleboro Daughters of Isabella.

Father Besette, a New Bedford native, received his elementary and secondary education in Vermont. After attending St. Michael's College for two years, he entered St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, and was ordained June 11, 1938, also by Bishop Cassidy.

He served as associate pastor at Our Lady of the Isle Church, Nantucket, St. Stephen's, Attleboro, St. Anne's, New Bedford, and Notre Dame, Fall River.

In 1961 he was named administrator of Holy Rosary parish, New Bedford, and in 1966 pastor of Our Lady of Fatima, New Bedford.

The pastorate of St. Hyacinth Church, also New Bedford, followed in 1970 and in 1974 Father Besette was transferred to his present position.

## Good Samaritan aids archbishop

Her mother always told her not to pick up hitchhikers, but the young lady out shopping for her trousseau thought this case was an exception.

So she stopped on the highway for Archbishop Philip Hannan of New Orleans, anxiously thumbing a ride after his car blew a tire en route to an anniversary Mass for Our Lady of Divine Providence parish in Metairie, La.

The archbishop expressed gratitude to his Good Samaritan in the course of his remarks to the Metairie congregation.