

OBSERVER

Local priest to mark 30th anniversary of ordination on May 17

The Rev. Raymond A. J. Donohue will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving for his 30th anniversary of ordination to the Holy Priesthood on May 17 at 11 a.m. at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Dunkirk.

Donohue was ordained a Roman Catholic diocesan priest on April 26, 1985 by the bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo, Edward Head, at St. Joseph's Parish in Fredonia where Donohue had been a deacon.

Donohue was born and raised in Buffalo, but spent the majority of his ministry in the Southern Tier. His first five years as a priest (1985-1990) were spent as associate pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Lakeview.

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(1990-1993) at St. Peter and Paul

in Jamestown – one year as the parochial vicar and two as its administrator. After his time in Jamestown, he became the Newman Center director for the SUNY Fredonia campus, where he stayed for two years (1993-1995). In 1995, he became the pastor of St. Mary's in Mayville and St. Isaac Jogues in Sherman, as well as the chaplain for the Catholic Community at the Chautauqua Institute and the Chautauqua County Jail. He stayed in this joint role for nine years until, for health reasons, he retired in 2004.

Since his retirement he has become a retreat director, giving retreats in both Erie and Chautauqua counties. He also assists at Holy Trinity in Dunkirk by celebrating Masses there.

Donohue lives in a cabin he built himself in the hills of Arkwright with his three dogs and three reindeer. He will be taking his 25th trip to the village of Medjugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina in the fall of 2015.

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