

Overland's 'Father K' Gets A Special Farewell

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By Pamela Schaeffer
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When the Rev. John M. Kilcullen, pastor of All Souls Catholic Church in Overland, moves to a parish in Brentwood next week, his parishioners in Overland want to be sure he travels in style.

At a farewell reception tonight, they will give him with a 1983 Ford Crown Victoria — a gift valued at \$13,000.

Parishioners say the car is a small token of their affection for a man who has given immeasurably to the Overland area for 21 years.

Jean McCandless, parishioner and Overland alderman, said "Father K" had worked himself tightly into the fabric of the community. "Everywhere you go, you hear another story about somebody else he has helped," she said.

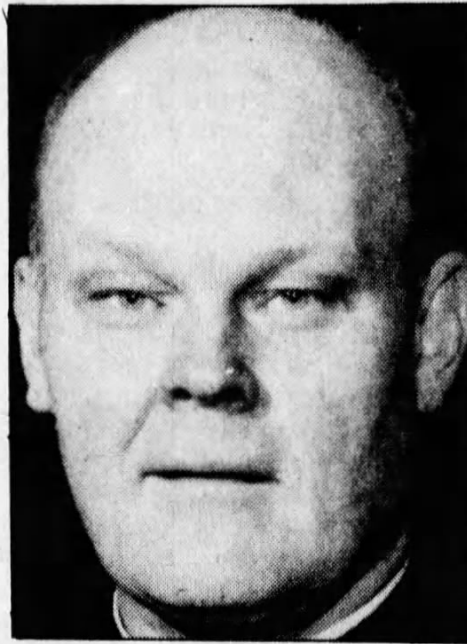
Tonight's reception at 7:30 — after a Mass at 6:30 at the Overland church — is no first for Kilcullen's parishioners. At a celebration of his 25th year as a priest in 1980, gifts of parishioners said friends had totaled about \$20,000.

But Mrs. McCandless said that this time, parishioners had decided to give the priest a car because, when they give him money, he gave most of it away.

Much of the money he got for his anniversary had been doled out — some to help people in need, some to provide funds for computers and a special reading program at the school, she said.

Parishioner Rose Cromer said the priest was "shy, quiet and so humble" — and had always gone out of his way to help people with financial or spiritual problems.

"When you don't know where to turn, you turn to Father K," she said. "People want to do for him



Rev. John M. Kilcullen

because he won't do for himself. Do you know people like that?"

Kilcullen, 53, pastor of the Overland church since 1971, has been appointed pastor of St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, 2618 Brentwood Boulevard.

As a Catholic priest who belongs to no order, Kilcullen took no vow of poverty. Regulations prohibit parish priests from holding a job in a secular field, but they may keep money earned from work related to their ministry, such as writing books.

But residents in Overland say money is beside the point. "I think so much of this man that if it were my last dime, I'd give it to him," said Frank Munsch Jr., another parishioner. Munsch was one of the organizers of the collection for the car. He said donations had totaled \$10,700 so far and were still coming in.

Munsch said parishioners were giving Kilcullen the car even though the priest was satisfied with his old one. "He is driving a 1973 model, and it has 159,000 miles on it," Munsch said.