

FATHER JOHN SCHLADE replaced Father O'Connor in June, 1970. He stayed at Assumption until November when he returned to his religious community of Vincentian Fathers. He went to St. Vincent Church, Chicago.

FATHER EDWARD KEEFE served as Associate from 1971-1972. He was ordained on May 25, 1968. Father Keefe came from St. Pose, Wilmington, and went to St. Isaac Jogues, Hinsdale, when he left here. He died at St. John Vianney Retirement Home in Naperville on August 13, 1987.

FATHER EDWARD ROLAND was ordained in 1953 for the Congregation of the Missions/ Vincentians. He came to the Joliet Diocese in 1972 and his first assignment in the Diocese was Assumption from 1972-1974. From here, he went to Holy Trinity, Westmont. He is presently pastor at St. Thaddeus in Joliet.

In 1974, **FATHER LEO OLSCHAUSKEN** was appointed permanent assistant, until his death on July 21, 1987.

Father Leo was born in Memel, Lithuania, on March 28, 1923, and was ordained as a Canon Regular of the Order of St. Norbert (Premonstratensians) at the Abbey of Stift-Schlagle, Austria, on June 29, 1948.

Father Leo served as Associate Pastor in several parishes bordering the Abbey until 1958, when he came to the United States to be with his family in Chicago. They had fled the Russian occupation of their homeland.

Father Leo was assigned at St. Michael's Lithuanian Church in Chicago and as chaplain at Mercy Hospital, Cadillac, Michigan, before being assigned as Associate Pastor at Assumption in 1974.

Father Leo endeared himself to the Altar Servers. These boys were his special charge. They became very close to him and he to them. He took his responsibilities very seriously in training and scheduling the servers.

Many young men would ask if Father Leo would baptize their first baby. Baptisms were another special love of Father Leo. He was always happy to celebrate that Sacrament.

Father Leo's walks to the downtown stores were a source of enjoyment for him and for the clerks, owners and patrons. So many recall that Father Leo would walk downtown with "coat unbuttoned and no hat." We will never know on this earth how much good Father Leo did by his meeting people on the streets and in the stores.

Certainly, his wake and funeral were a testimony of Coal City's love and reverence for him. All three of the Joliet bishops were present at the Mass of Resurrection.

Father Leo served with two pastors, Father Flynn (1974-1982) and Father Berst (1982- 1987) until his death.

Father Leo died rather suddenly on July 21, 1987, after a few days of illness. He was the third priest to die in the rectory. However, for each priest who died here, it was a different house.

The newly formed Funeral Committee prepared and served its first luncheon, which turned out to be a full-scale dinner after Father Leo's Mass of Resurrection

Tribute To Father Leo

(Composed and delivered by Lucille DeGulie)



Father Leo Olschausken came to St. Mary's Assumption to serve in 1974 and remained until his death on July 21, 1987.

As most of you know, Father Leo was born in Lithuania and studied in Germany. He was ordained a member of the Norbertine Order in 1948 at the Abbey of Stift-Schlagle, Austria. For the next ten years, he served as an associate pastor of several parishes bordering the Abbey. In 1958 he emigrated to the United States and joined members of his family in Chicago. He was named chaplain of Mercy Hospital in Cadillac, Michigan, in 1961 and served

there until coming to our parish in 1974.

I feel certain that when Father Leo comes to any of our minds, we have vivid pictures of him -- saying early Mass or baptizing a baby, leading the St. Anthony Novena or just taking a walk, especially in the winter weather that he enjoyed so much.

Maybe you were touched by his subtle sense of humor -- and you recall that with a smile. Whatever was your association with him, if you knew him at all,

you knew of his deep affection for children (especially for "his" altar boys) and his deep and abiding love for Jesus.

In his eulogy at Father's Requiem Mass, Father O'Connor characterized Father Leo as a man of faith, hope and love. Let us reiterate those virtues with reference to Father Leo.

To Father Leo, faith was not just something that he represented and talked of from the altar; it was a virtue that he lived daily in his priestly duties, in his relationships with people, and in his charity.

Father was a man of hope, not despair. His view may not always have been the most popular one because he refused to be a cynic. Instead he held an optimistic view that was contagious when one spoke with him.

Love was the ultimate word with Father Leo. He seldom expressed it in words, but he did express it in his attitude and in his actions -- toward the sick and suffering and dying; to the elderly and lonely, and to the young people, especially to "his" beloved altar boys.

There is little doubt that they understood his affection for them; the evidence of their affection for him is obvious by the large number of them present here this morning. Love was the motivating force within him, and he taught faith and hope through that love.

Father Leo has left us a legacy which will not fade or erode -- faith in God, hope in God's promises, and love for His creations. It's a beautiful memory; we are grateful for it. We shall not forget him.