

Rev. Cletus Abts to retire

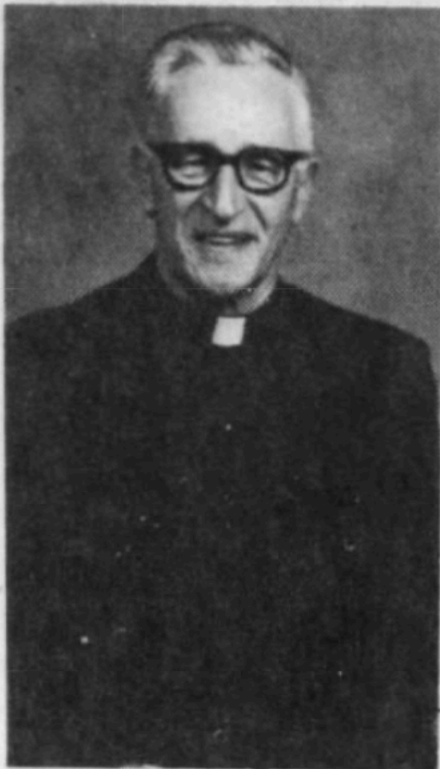
The **Rev. Cletus Abts**, who has served in the Wausau area for 20 years and is now pastor of St. Agnes Catholic Church, Callon, will retire Wednesday.

He will be honored at an open house Sunday at 7 p.m. in **Abts** Hall at St. Agnes parish. The public may attend.

Father **Abts** was born Oct. 8, 1907, in Arcadia. He completed high school in Arcadia and attended Beloit College. He spent six years in the National Guard. At the age of 26 he entered St. Francis Seminary and was ordained at St. John's Cathedral, Milwaukee, on Feb. 2, 1944.

He served parishes at Shullsberg, Arcadia, Wisconsin Rapids, Stevens Point and Pittsville before coming to Newman High School, Wausau, in 1955. He served there during the construction of the present building and in 1958 went to Holy Name parish, Wausau, where he served during the building of the church.

In 1969 he went to St. Joseph's parish in Stratford, and assumed his present position in 1971. The St. Agnes CCD center and parish hall which bears his name was completed recently.



REV. CLETUS ABTS

He has been active in many church and civil affairs. He rejoined the National Guard in 1947 and retired from the Guard in 1967 with the rank of lieutenant colonel and division chaplain of the 32nd Infantry Division. He is a past state chaplain of the Catholic War Veterans, a life member of the 32nd Infantry Division Association and of the National Guard Association and a member of the Military

Chaplains Association.

He was a charter member of the Wausau Serra Club and served as its first chaplain. He has served as chaplain of the Third and Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Foresters, the Newman Club at the University of Wisconsin Marathon Center and as diocesan chaplain of the Boy Scouts.

He served as director of youth for the La Crosse Diocese, dean of the Marathon County Deanery from 1959 to 1962, and on the Priest's Senate, St. Joseph's Priest Fund Board of Directors, Marathon County Red Cross Board, Board of Diocesan Consultors and is a member of the Schofield Lions Club.

Father **Abts** plans to retire to his home on Lake Muskellunge near Tomahawk. He plans to hunt, fish, travel, visit friends and relatives, work on his hobbies of woodworking and gardening and help out in area parishes.

The **Rev.** Herbert Zoromski, pastor of SS. Peter & Paul Catholic Church, Independence, has been named pastor of St. Agnes parish, effective Nov. 5.