

Honor Rev. B. Neil Smith for 25th Year as Priest



THE REV. B. NEIL SMITH

VFW Members Attend Meeting

Members of the Iron County Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and Auxiliary, Hurley, who attended the spring convention at Hayward May 19 and 20 were: Ed. Hedman, post commander; Leo Larivee, 10th District chaplain; Leonard Zaleski, newly elected commander; Andy Skoviera, Roland Rice and Frank Benson; and Mmes. Lena Kasper, 10th District president; Josephine Vander-schaegen, district secretary; Oliver Risku, local auxiliary president and color bearer; Hedman, district color bearer; and Carol Parent, Caroline Larivee, Toni Rice and Buckley Peterson.

District election of officers was held and the following elected: Zaleski, vice commander; Gordon Haglund, Clear Lake, Wis., district commander; Victoria Berger, Medford, Wis., district president of the auxiliary; Mrs. Peterson, guard, and Mrs. Hedman, color bearer No. 4.

Hayward Post Commander Clifford Weingarten was master of ceremonies. Featured speaker was William Emmanuel, Cambria, Wis., director of the veterans education committee. He spoke on programs for veterans and told what benefits they are entitled to.

Tenth District Commander Kenneth Aspenwall, Superior, and 10th District President Mrs. Lena Kasper, Hurley, presented a pin and plaque to Lester Kim Kesler, Iron River, Wis., as second-place winner in the Voice of Democracy contest.

Area persons who marched in the parade were Hedman, Larivee, Zaleski, Skoviera, Benson, and Mmes. Hedman, Risku and Peterson. Mrs. Vander-schaegen rode in the officials care.

RAMSAY — The Rev. Bernard Neil Smith, pastor of Christ the King Catholic Church, Ramsay, will commemorate his silver anniversary year of ordination to the priesthood Sunday, June 3 with a mass of thanksgiving at 1:30 p.m.

Father Smith was born Dec. 29, 1919 at Ontonagon, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James Smith. One brother, James, lives at Jackson and a brother, Francis Walter, is deceased. He attended Ontonagon schools and graduated from Ontonagon Area High School in 1938. In 1940 he entered St. Lawrence College, Mount Calvary, Wis. and in 1942, Salvatorian Seminary, St. Mazianz, Wis. and graduated in the class of 1943. He studied philosophy and theology at St. Paul Seminary, St. Paul from 1943 to 1948.

The first native of Ontonagon and its Holy Family Catholic Church to be ordained to priesthood, Father Smith was baptized, confirmed and celebrated his first mass at Holy Family. He was ordained at St. Peter's Cathedral, Marquette, June 5, 1948, by The Most Rev. Thomas L. Noa, STD. Bishop of Marquette, now retired.

First assigned to the Rev. Garin, St. John's Catholic Church, Marquette, in July 1948, he was assigned in October to Sts. Mary and Joseph Catholic Church, Iron Mountain as assistant to the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Pelessir. In 1951 he was appointed chaplain at the Veterans Hospital, Iron Mountain, and also chaplain to the Carmelite Monastery. Next he was appointed in 1953 to assist the Rev. Gerald Harrington at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Munising and in 1954 became chaplain to Camp Cousineau, Shingleton. He also established the Catholic Youth Center at Munising.

In 1957 Father Smith was appointed administrator of Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Grand Marais, with missions at St. Therese, Germfask and a station at Blaney Park. As president of the Grand Marais Chamber of Commerce, he helped establish the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore between Munising and Grand Marais. In 1965 he was assigned as pastor of Christ the King Catholic Church, Ramsay.

A dinner given by the parish under the auspices of the parish council, will be held at 3:30 p.m. at Connie's Supper Club, Hurley, following the afternoon mass June 3. A reception will be held in the parish hall following the dinner. A social hour will begin at 5 p.m. followed by dancing at 7:30 p.m. Invitations were sent to all persons on the parish list and Mrs. Fran Beissel is in charge of reservations. Donald Ahonen is president of the parish council.