

Metuchen Diocese to ordain 15 priests Saturday



Seminarians to be ordained Saturday stand on the steps of Emmaus House in Perth Amboy with Bishop Theodore E. McCarrick, second row, center. They are, front row, left to right: Edward Jankowski, Michael Crummy, Marvin Carney, Richard Abramowicz, Josef Melaniuk, James Hagerman. Second row: George Pisanello, McCarrick, Michael Krull. Third row: Peter Suhaka, Kenneth Murphy, Glenn Comandini, Jerome Johnson, David Pekola. Fourth row: Joseph Romanoski, Joseph Curry.

By MARY ROMANO
Courier-News Staff Writer

Piscataway resident Kenneth Murphy, who will be ordained a Roman Catholic priest Saturday in Metuchen's St. Francis Cathedral, says that "as a means to an end," the event is not an accomplishment.

Rather, says Murphy, the ordination is "the beginning of the rest of my life. So in terms of a beginning, it's an accomplishment."

Murphy is one of 15 seminarians who will be ordained at 10 a.m. Saturday by Bishop Theodore E. McCarrick of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Metuchen.

It will be the second largest class to be ordained this year in the United States. The largest, with 21 ordained priests, is from the Diocese of Chicago.

Since Murphy's ministry experience includes work at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Piscataway, Pontiac General Hospital in Pontiac, Mich., and St. Mary Preparatory School in Orchard Lake, Mich., he is not apprehensive about the upcoming ordination.

"I'm not nervous," he said. "This comes at a time in my life that I'm prepared. I've done a lot of reflection and praying, and I've decided this is what I want to do with my life."

Murphy, who has a master's degree in religious studies from the University of St. Francis Xavier in Brooklyn, N.Y., and a master's of divinity from Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Mich., will celebrate his first Mass Saturday at Our Lady of Fatima Church in Piscataway.

Other seminarians from the area who will be ordained are Glenn J. Comandini of Raritan, Joseph V. Romanoski and Peter G. Suhaka, both of Manville, and Edward J. Jankowski of Somerville.

Jankowski, who has worked at St. Ann Parish in Raritan and St. Joseph Parish in Bound Brook, said the people who are entering the religious vocations are older, more mature and have had careers, "but they are looking for something more that what has been offered to them."

Jankowski will celebrate his first Mass Sunday at Immaculate Conception in Somerville.

Comandini, who went to France to teach English when he won a Fulbright-Hayes teaching assistantship, believes the large turnout is "a sign from God that he is very much with us. The diocese is very blessed."

The Plainfield native has master's degrees in French, Spanish and systematic theology.

Suhaka and Romanoski will both celebrate their first Masses at Sa-

cred Heart Church in Manville.

Suhaka has a master's degree in divinity from Christ the King Seminary in Buffalo, N.Y. He has worked in pastoral care at Roswell Park Cancer Hospital in Buffalo and in the religious education program at Our Lady of the Angels Church in Colden, N.Y.

Romanoski has a bachelor's degree in theology from St. Mary College in Orchard Lake, Mich., and a master's of divinity from Saints Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake.

He served in Holy Family Church in Carteret and St. Mary Church in South River.

Other seminarians to be ordained are Richard Abramowicz of Perth Amboy, Michael Crummy of Sayreville, Joseph Curry of Edison, James Hagerman of Perth Amboy, Jerome Johnson of Freehold, Michael Krull of New Brunswick, Jozef Melaniuk of South River, David Pekola of Carteret, George Pisanello of Montclair, and Marvin Carney of Louisville, Kentucky.

Saturday's ordination will turn the men into what Jankowski calls "special extensions of God." It is a title he is content with.

"I'm at peace about it," he said. "This is what I believe I should be doing with my life. I feel it in my heart."