

New Christian community encompasses many faiths

A priest who served in the Ottawa-Hull area for the past six years has been named spiritual advisor to a new inter-faith community in the Lakes region of New Hampshire.

Rev. John J. Berube, of La Salette Fathers will be spiritual advisor to the Johannine Christian Community and its retreat house and counselling centre in Northfield.

The Johannine Community is incorporated in New Hampshire as a religious, charitable, non-profit organization encompassing those of all Christian faiths.

There is a 20-acre farm which will serve as the headquarters for the group and a 19-room house will be a retreat house and counselling centre. A large barn on the property will become a wood-working shop and craft store for the community, and a vegetable garden has already been planted to provide for the group.

Regular prayer services will be held in the house by ministers of various denominations, in keeping with the inter-faith aspect.

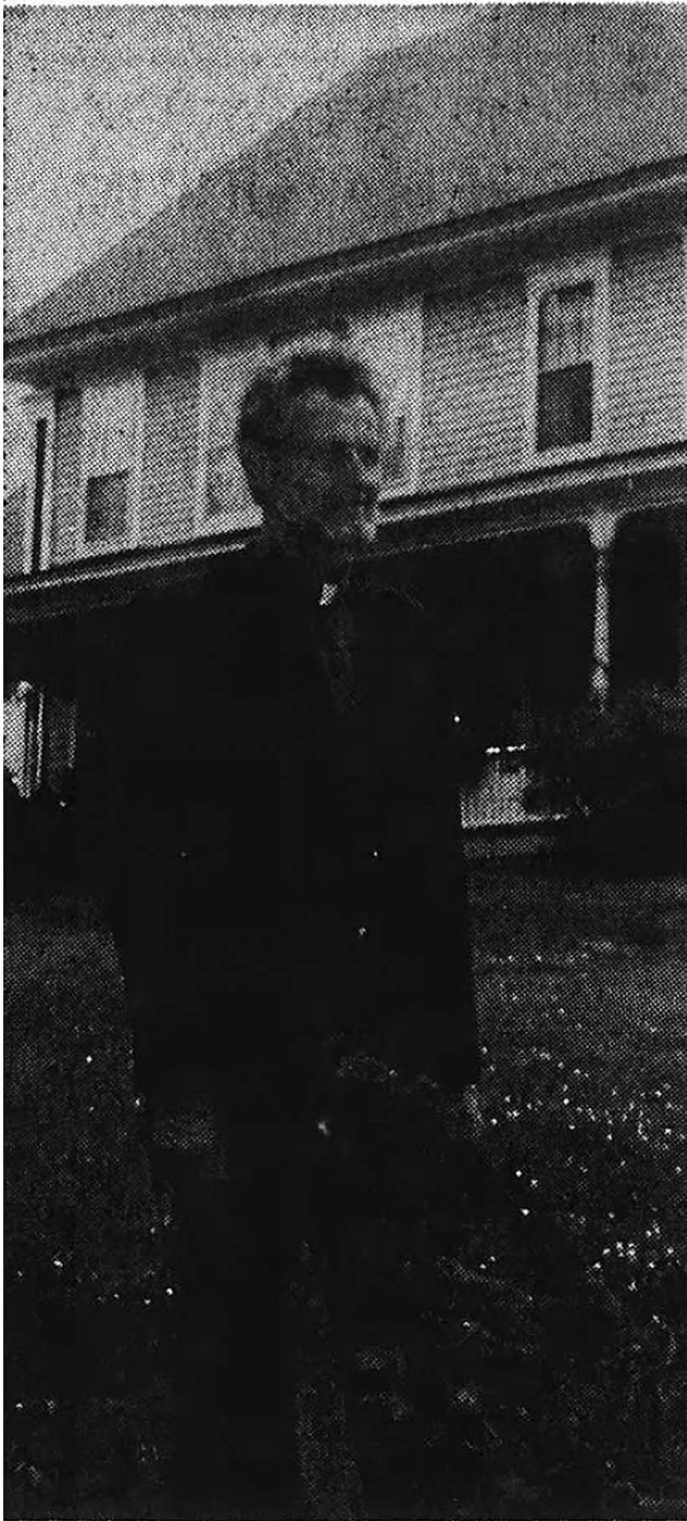
"In the near future," Father Berube explained "we hope to begin making cassette tapes for shut-ins. This will be done by two clergymen attached to the group. The tapes will be marketed in the United States and Canada for use in nursing homes and by lonely shut-ins," he added.

Father Berube was pastor of Our Lady of Victory parish in Buckingham, Que., as well as St. Camillus Church in Farrellton and Holy Cross in Fieldville. He was Vicar for the English-speaking population of the Hull Diocese until last year.

The new director spent six years in the missions on the island of Madagascar and he became chancellor of the diocese of Morondava. After minis-

tering to parishes in Louisiana, he returned to Madagascar and Africa with the Catholic Relief Services, and travelled through the continent and the Islands of the Indian Ocean setting up relief programs for the American bishops. In the first five years, the program he directed in Madagascar brought a million dollars in relief supplies to the island.

The priest's background also includes preaching missions and retreats in the United States and Canada as well as teaching in La Salette Seminary in Jefferson City, Mo. He was also admissions director for La Salette Seminary in Enfield, N.H., and spent a year at St. Paul University, Ottawa, studying pastoral counselling.



Rev. John Berube

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