

Pastor profile

The Rev. John A. O'Brien

CHURCH: The Rev. John A. O'Brien is the pastor of Presentation Church, North Fond du Lac, where he has served since Sept. 25.

BACKGROUND: A Fond du Lac County native, Rev. O'Brien graduated from St. Mary's Springs High School. He received a bachelor of arts degree from St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee in 1960 and a bachelor of divinity degree from St. Francis Major Seminary, Milwaukee, in 1964. He received a master's of arts in human development from St. Mary's College, Winona, Minn., in 1974. In 1977, Rev. O'Brien received his doctorate degree in philosophy and education from Walden University, Naples, Fla. He went



to do graduate work at Mansfield College at Oxford University in England and at Trinita De Monti in Rome. He also did a national study of board of directors at United States Seminary Colleges as his doctoral dissertation.

O'Brien was ordained in 1964 at St. John's Cathedral, Milwaukee. He served as associate pastor at Immaculate Conception Parish, Milwaukee, from 1964-71. He also taught at St. John's Cathedral High School from 1966-71. He was a charter member of the Ecumenical Commission for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. O'Brien came to St. Mary's Springs in 1971, where he served until the spring of 1990. He is also the Catholic chaplain at Taycheedah Correctional Institution and Kettle Moraine Correctional Institution. He has served as associate weekend pastor at St. Patrick's for 20 years, and at St. Wenceslaus, Ripon, for 10 years. He also serves as chaplain for Wisconsin Badger Boys State at Ripon and the Knights of Columbus. O'Brien was knighted by the Vatican in 1977 into the Knighthood of the Holy Sepulchre.

HOBBIES: O'Brien enjoys genealogy and has traced his ancestry back to King Brian Boru of Ireland. He is currently working on the Irish ancestry of George Washington, Franklin Roosevelt and George Bush. He also enjoys reading, cooking, traveling, archaeology and history.

COMMENTS: "My return here is like going back to my roots." His parents and maternal grandparents were married at Presentation Church. O'Brien also enjoys working with some of his old classmates from the Springs.