



Father Dion and Bishop Fitzsimmons

## St. John's pastor celebrates 25th

The Rev. Maurice Dion, Hanover, observed the golden anniversary celebration of his priesthood Sunday at St. John's Church, Hanover.

A Mass was celebrated at 4 p.m. The Most Rev. George K. Fitzsimons, bishop of the diocese of Salina, presided and gave the homily.

A dinner by the Altar Society was held in the school auditorium. The Knights of Columbus served refreshments before the dinner.

Father Dion was born in Manchester, N. H., Jan. 17, 1917. He was ordained in St. Louis, Mo., on June 4, 1944, by the late John Cardinal Glennon. He joined the diocese of Salina 50 years ago.

Father Dion served in Norton from 1944-47; Aurora-Miltonvale-Meredith, 1947-60; Clyde, 1960-66; Leoville, 1966-70; Belleville-Munden, 1970-76; Hanover, 1976-80; and Clay Center, 1980-82.

Since 1982 he has been living at Hanover and assists the pastor at Hanover-Greenleaf and other pastors in the area by offering weekend Masses, by assisting with penance services and other priestly work.

Bishop Fitzsimmons likened Father Dion to the wisemen who came from the East to bring the good news to the people. He asked that the congregation find young people willing to share in

the religious life and take the good news back to the East and other places where vocations are needed.

He also mentioned the other 50th anniversary being celebrated this week, that of D-Day. He said people sometimes have a hard time understanding that Christ willingly died for us, but those who fought during the war did the same. They died that others could live a life in freedom. Father Dion has worked for the past 50 years helping people learn that through Christ's blood, they can be saved.

Dan Bruna, Deb Schlabach and Barb Jueneman read the Scriptures and petitions. Other speakers were Harold Bruna, parish council president, and the Rev. Edward Oen, pastor at St. John's.

"Hanover is a loving town, a giving town, a Christian town," said Father Dion. "That's why Hanover is my hometown."

He received a standing ovation from the congregation.