

Others Recognized

Monsignor Title Goes To Rynish

The Rev. John J. Rynish, who has been pastor of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church since 1965, has been designated a monsignor by Pope Paul VI.

He was chosen as an honorary prelate in recognition of his services as temporary administrator of the Springfield-Cape Girardeau Diocese.

That was the period between the installation of the former bishop of the diocese, the Most Rev. Ignatius J. Strecker, as archbishop of the Diocese of Kansas City in Kansas, and the installing of Bishop William W. Baum as his successor here. After Archbishop Strecker's installation October, 1968, Father Rynish was elected as administrator by a priest-consultors of the diocese, serving until Bishop Baum was installed in St. Agnes Cathedral here last April.

The new monsignor has been dean of the Springfield Deanery of the Springfield-Cape Girardeau Diocese for several years.

Ordained to the priesthood on Feb. 21, 1943, after graduation from Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis, Msgr. Rynish began pastoral work. Among his appointments he served St. Canera



Magr. J. J. Rynish

Church in Neosho and was pastor in Portageville in the southeastern part of the diocese prior to being assigned to the Springfield church.

Magr. John H. Westhues, a vicar general of the diocese and rector of St. Agnes Cathedral, who was a domestic prelate, is now an honorary prelate, which makes the bearer a "right reverend."

Magr. Westhues came to the Springfield-Cape Girardeau Diocese shortly after it was formed in 1866, appointed by the first bishop, the Most Rev. Charles H. Helmsing. He served as chancellor until this past summer when he was chosen as a second vicar general by Bishop Baum. While chancellor he also was pastor for a time of Sacred Heart Church and Holy Trinity in Marshfield.

The other vicar general, Magr. Charles P. Schmitt of Charleston, where he is pastor of St. Henry's Church, received the honor from Pope Paul of protonotary apostolic. This means he is a notary for the pope and it is a function of the papal household.

This is the highest honor for a non-bishop. Magr. Schmitt has been vicar general in the diocese for many years.

Interestingly, a bishop may not reverse a decision made by a vicar general during his absence from the diocese, according to canon law.

The parchment documents giving the Springfield dean the

title of monsignor and the honors to the other two were brought back from the Vatican by Bishop Baum when he returned recently from a visit to Rome.