

Rev. J. Degnan Observes 20 Years In Priesthood

Rev. John Degnan, pastor of St. George parish, Linn, celebrated the 20th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood Sunday, January 10. Father Degnan came to Linn from St. Thomas about six months ago.

At 5 p.m. Sunday, Holy Mass was concelebrated at St. George Church by Father Degnan and a friend, Rev. Clarence Wiederholt, pastor of St. Joseph parish, Rhineland. Father Wiederholt also delivered the sermon.

A carry-in dinner by the parishioners followed. Approximately 500 were present. After the meal the children of St. George school presented skits or musical numbers in honor of the 20th anniversary of Father, directed by the School Sisters.

Special guests present for the occasion were: Mrs. Ruth Degnan, St. Louis, mother of the honoree; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Travers, uncle and aunt of Fr. Degnan; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lueckenhoff and family and Mrs. Rose Schmidt, St. Thomas; Mrs. Rose Schlueter, Linn, and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Schauwecker, Westphalia.

Father Degnan was born and raised in St. Louis. He received

his training for the priesthood at Conception Seminary, Conception Mo. He was ordained at Holy Rosary Church, St. Louis on January 6, 1951, by the Most Rev. Bernard T. Espolove, O.F.M.

Rev. Degnan worked in the Missions of Arizona among the Spanish people for 10 years for his first assignment. He returned to Missouri and served one year at St. Joseph parish, Westphalia.

His next assignment was pastor of St. Martin's parish at Choteau Springs where he served for 6½ years after which he was assigned to St. Theresa parish in Dixon for four months. Father Degnan went from there to St. Thomas parish, St. Thomas for three years as pastor before coming to Linn in August 1970.

In 1965 he was sent to Peru, South America, for several months to help out while one of the missionaries attended school.

Rev. Degnan was elected to the Priest Senate the past November as deanery representative for the Jefferson City Deanery. He is presently attending evening classes at Lincoln University where he is working on his Master's Degree in Counseling. He expects to graduate this summer.