

Deacon Ordination First in Merced

MERCED — Basil Congro, 29, son of Mr. and Mrs. Basil Congro of 2181 Cedarcrest Drive, will be ordained a deacon in the Roman Catholic Church here Saturday, the first such ordination to be held in Merced.

Bishop Hugh Donahoe of Fresno will perform the ordination rites at 11 a.m. in Sacred Heart Church, assisted by four Merced priests and several priests from the seminary Congro is attending in Camarillo.

A native of Long Island, N.Y., Congro moved with his parents to Merced in 1975.

He studied at St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, Md. where he received a BA in psychology and at St. Vincent De Paul Seminary in Boynton, Fla.

Congro will resume his studies at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo next week and will be ordained a priest early next year. During his studies at St. Johns he has been working part-time at the Veterans Hospital in Los Angeles.

His sister, Mary, is a nurse at Mercy Hospital. Another sister, Caroline, and one of his four brothers residing in New York will attend the ordination.

Also expected to attend are an aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Testa and cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Betz and Dr. and Mrs. Paul Corbett, all



BASIL CONGRO

of Merced; an aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Congro, New York City, and an aunt, Mrs. Louis Simone of Florida.

Congro worked in the Merced area last summer, assisting at St. Patricks, Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Mercy churches and will be assigned to a parish this summer.

Following his final year at St. Johns and his ordination as a priest next year, he will be assigned to a parish in the Fresno diocese.

A reception will be held at St. Patricks auditorium following the ordination Saturday at Sacred Heart.