

Chemists to honor area priest

By DAVID VAN FLEET

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Although he hasn't been able to devote much time to it in the past decade or two, the Rev. Peter P. Pritzl, O. Praem, will be honored for his contributions to the field of chemistry Tuesday.

The Northeast Wisconsin Chapter of the American Chemical Society will honor Pritzl, 76, with an award marking his 50 years of membership in the group at an award dinner in Appleton.

Pritzl was secretary-treasurer of the regional group of the ACS in 1937, vice president in 1938, and chairman in 1939.

His background in the sciences is extensive. He joined the Norbertine order in 1923, when he was still a teen-ager. He received his bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from St. Norbert College in 1925. He was ordained in 1929.

Two years later, he was received his master's degree in chemistry from the University of Wisconsin.

Pritzl returned to St. Norbert to begin a teaching

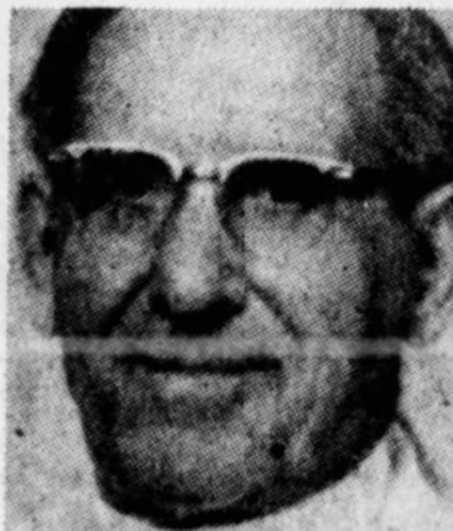
career that would last another 30 years. He taught chemistry, mathematics and religion until 1961, and was chairman of the chemistry department from 1933-1961.

During his tenure as chairman, the department was lauded nationally for its excellence. He also served as dean of the college from 1944 to 1946.

For 11 years Pritzl was on the national committee of Organic Chemistry Examinations, during which time the national organic chemistry exams for college students were rewritten.

He was a member of the Green Bay Air Pollution Control Commission in the late 1940s, during which time he initiated dust control analysis. Other accomplishments include contribution to the development of oxide coatings for vacuum tube electrodes, the development of abrasive base soaps, and an irrigation method for "saline seep" soils in Montana.

During the post-World War II years, Pritzl, as acting dean of the college, organized and directed a veter-



The Rev. Peter Pritzl

ans' counseling center which gave vocational advice to over 10,000 veterans from Northeastern Wisconsin.

He retired from teaching in 1961 after suffering a heart attack. He was transferred to Santa Ana, Calif., where he assisted in the establishment of a novitiate for the newly formed Hungarian Norbertine Fathers.

About two years later, Pritzl was named pastor of parishes in Shelby and Sunburst, Montana. During his 13 years in Montana, he began his work in charismatic religion.

After his retirement in

1974, Rev. Pritzl returned to St. Joseph's Priory at St. Norbert. In 1975, he received St. Norbert's Alma Mater award. In April 1979, he celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

Pritzl said he is intensely interested in the Catholic Pentecostal movement.

As a participant in the movement, "I have made Jesus a personal friend, something that has really brought religion to life for me. I hope that if this is known about me, with my background in the sciences, it might interest more people in the Catholic Pentecostal movement and charismatic religion," Pritzl said.

Another of his recently developed interests is the Peter P. Pritzl scholarship fund, started in the priest's name in 1977 by the late Dr. and Mrs. Peter B. Golden.

Although, the fund does not yet have sufficient resources to give scholarships, Pritzl said he is confident that it will eventually have enough to provide full-tuition scholarships to chemistry and pre-medical students.