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Chaplain to Observe 50 Years as Priest

By TED HULBERT

The Rev. Edward M. Gallagher will celebrate the golden jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood Friday.

Father Gallagher, chaplain at St. Anthony Boys Home, will sing a high mass for the sisters and the boys at 6:30 a.m. Friday—the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

The priest, whose mind is acute despite his advanced years, is outspokenly frank in his political views and his opinions on a realm of other topics.

"I never go to the movies. I don't care for them," he said.

"I'm in favor of the right to work and against the labor unions.

"I think alcoholism is a vice and not a disease.

"I'm a Republican. I'm also a conservative. I don't think we can get anywhere by changing the Catholic Church," he said in reference to recent "reforms" adopted by the Ecumenical Council. "Besides, you can't change the Catholic Church," Father Gallagher said.

"I never voted for a Democrat except Al Smith in 1928. Why I don't know—I can't figure out why. But I made a mistake."

Father Gallagher celebrates the mass each morning in the chapel of St. Anthony Boys Home. The remainder of his mornings is spent outside, gardening and caring for the shrubbery. Afternoons are a time for study and other scholastic pursuits inside his apartment.

"Everything's very quiet here," he said of the 11 years he has served as chaplain at the boys home. Before coming to Albuquerque early in 1953, Father Gallagher taught in a high school, a private academy and New Melleray Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. "Teaching is very rough, but I like it," he said.

After being ordained on Dec. 20, 1913, Father Gallagher was a chaplain in Honesburg County prison, a parish priest in that county in Pennsylvania and in several other parishes in Philadelphia. His grandfather came to Philadelphia from Ireland in 1845.

Two of his three sisters are Catholic nuns. Father Gallagher was the oldest of 10 children in his family.

The walls of his apartment are lined with an impressive library and record collection. Sherlock Holmes, "Anderson's Fairy Tales" and "Doctor Zhivago" are included with a prized 16-volume set of St. Thomas in the library.

The edition of St. Thomas, Father Gallagher said, is the only one of its kind in this country and is valued at \$7500.

Father Gallagher, who has a master's degree in classical languages, corresponds with scholarly journals, and from time to time takes pleasure in pointing out to them errors in Latin grammar in their articles.

Of the 17 seminarians in his class at St. Charles in Overbrook, Pa., in 1913, only Father Gallagher and two others are now alive. "Three out of 17 is only about 20 per cent," he said. "But" he added with a smile, "I go to Lovelace Clinic twice a year and they say I'm okay."



Rev. Edward Gallagher