

# Acting principal named at St. Bernard High

MONTVILLE — The Rev. Robert W. Barnes, associate pastor of St. Mary Star of the Sea Parish in New London, has been appointed acting principal of St. Bernard High School.

Father Barnes, 58, is expected to serve as acting principal for the coming academic year, while the board of trustees seeks a principal to begin the 1981-82 school year.

The appointment, announced today by Bishop Daniel P. Reilly of the Norwich, follows the resignation last week of The Rev. James G. Burbank, who served as principal for the past two years. Father Burbank resigned after discussions with the school's board of trustees.

Father Burbank, who is studying for a second master's degree at the University of Notre Dame, returned to the area last week at the request of the board to discuss his situation. According to one board member, Father Burbank had difficulty being principal of a religious school and dealing with a lay board. His resignation, for "personal reasons," was unanimously accepted by the trustees.

Father Burbank will continue studies toward a master's degree in administration.

Father Barnes, a resident of Rumford, R.I., was ordained to the priesthood earlier this year by Bishop Reilly. He has an extensive background in teaching and school administration. As a member of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, he

served as a teacher, assistant principal, admissions officer and director. He also was development fund director from 1951 to 1977, when he entered Pope John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass.

Father Barnes was a teacher and assistant principal at St. Raphael Academy in Pawtucket, R.I., from 1951 to 1958. After serving as the New England director of the Christian Brothers Development Fund drive in 1958 and 1959, he returned to St. Raphael Academy as assistant principal until 1967.

From 1967 to 1971 Father Barnes was a teacher and chairman of the social studies department at De La Salle High School in New Orleans.

From 1971 to 1973 he was admissions director at the Foreign Study League Schools in New York City. In 1973 and 1974 he was admissions officer at the Christian Brothers College in Memphis, Tenn.

He then served as a faculty member at Paramus Catholic Boys' High School in Paramus, N.J., from 1974 to 1977, when he began studies for the priesthood.

Father Barnes holds a bachelor's degree from Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.; a master's degree from Manhattan College in Riverdale, N.Y.; and a master of divinity from Pope John XXIII National Seminary in Weston, Mass. He also completed advanced graduate studies at St. John's University in Jamaica, N.Y.; Our Lady of Cincinnati College, Ohio; and the University of Rhode Island.