

Sacred Heart Pastor Rev. Daniel J. Maher

WATERVLIET — The Sacred Heart of Mary Church has a new pastor. He is Rev. Daniel J. Maher, a native of Tipperary County in Ireland.

He replaced Rev. Joseph F. DiMaggio, acting administrator, who has been transferred to the pastorate of the Holy Cross Church in Morris, N.Y.

Fr. Maher received his religious education in Ireland, graduating from St. Patrick's College and Mount Melleray Seminary. He was ordained into the priesthood in June, 1962.

In August of the same year he came to the United States where he has worked in the Albany Catholic Diocese. He has been an assistant pastor at St. Theresa of Avila Church in Albany, at St. Mary's Church, Clinton Heights, Rensselaer and at St. Francis DeSales Church in West Albany. He has also served as chaplain at the Albany Medical Center. Besides his parish duties he is also a teacher at Mercy High School in Albany.

The appointment of the new pastor, although it is labeled by the Diocese as a "routine transfer," could strike up a note of optimism among Sacred Heart's 600-family parish. Last year the diocese considered merging the parish with the larger St. Patrick's Church, however, they desisted mainly because parishioners from both churches voted against it.

There is no talk of merging or closing them at this time, a diocesan spokesman said Tuesday.