

# Holy Family Catholic Church Hosts Charismatic Service

by Mary Drier  
Staff Writer

Holy Family Catholic Church in Sebewaing hosted its first **Charismatic Renewal Healing Through Prayer Service** Monday.

The practice of healing through prayer has been around for about 2000 years, said Fr. Art Cooney, 41, who led the healing service.

Fr. Cooney said he doesn't think of himself in terms of a "faith healer."

"I consider myself as exercising a healing ministry," said Fr. Cooney. "Jesus is the one who heals."

"I just pray for the people."

He doesn't think his prayers are stronger or more effective than any other baptized person.

"The more you pray, the more results you see. If you don't pray, you won't see results," Fr. Cooney said. "This is available to all believers. The more asked for, the more received. If you don't ask you don't receive."

Fr. Cooney has been with the Saginaw Diocese since 1975 and has been involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement since 1977.

"I've definitely seen results from prayers," he said. "I've seen physical healing, emotional healing of people being reconciled and forgiving to bring families together. I've seen people able to accept God's forgiveness of

them and being able to let go of guilt and shame.

"I don't cure diseases or anyone, but I've seen God do a lot of curing and healing."

Fr. Cooney said he became interested in the power of prayer after attending a seminar of Ruth Carter Stapleton, President Jimmy Carter's sister. She talked about her healing of harmful memories of the past through prayer, and encouraged him to pray for others who were undergoing stress.

"I found praying for and especially praying with people to be more helpful than simple pastoral counseling."

According to the priest, most Christians do intercessory praying for the needs of others and neglect to pray with others.

"Jesus and his Apostles did prayer healings over 2000 years ago," said Fr. Cooney. "About one-third of St. Luke's gospel is healings, and is a pretty important part of Jesus' ministry."

"It used to be only a few people who healed the sick. In the new lesson, these graces are spread to everyone who believes."

As part of the Catholic Charismatic renewal healing service, a prayer team helps pray for healing. About 12 persons from Bay City, Saginaw, Pinconning and Eaton Rapids formed a prayer team for Monday's service.

Also, at the service was

Judy Troxell, who was commissioned by Saginaw Diocese's Bishop Kenneth Untener.

She has been involved in the Charismatic movement for about 18 years, and she has experienced personal physical healing.

Troxell is the sister of Mary Enser of Sebewaing.

"I want to encourage everyone to pray and pray for healing and to pray with others. It isn't something that is only by only a few," said Fr. Cooney. "If you don't know how to pray, simply ask Jesus to stand by in the hours of need."

Members of the prayer team said they have received personal healing and/or witnessed several various kinds of healings.

The Charismatic Renewal movement is an international interdenominational Christian revivalistic movement.

The most recent development in the movement is the Roman Catholic Charismatic renewal, which began in 1967. The new movement received favorable response during the Vatican II Council, and Pope Paul VI recognized the movement in 1975.

An important aspect of this movement in the Catholic church is the involvement of laity, where saints, priests and nuns used to be the only ones involved.

Most Charismatics are orthodox in doctrine and emphasize activity within their own denominations. They are ecstatic in worship and align themselves with other Evangelicals in emphasis on evangelism and personal faith.

Those involved in the movement believe they have been "filled" or "baptized" with the Holy Spirit through

the laying on of hands resulting in physical, emotional or spiritual healing.

There is a Charismatic Renewal Center at 1517 S. Washington, Saginaw.

Fr. Cooney is a member of the Capuchin Franciscan

order, headquartered at St. Anthony Church in Saginaw.

He is originally from Wisconsin and comes from a family where several of his uncles are priests and his aunts and cousins are nuns.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard

Czubachowski of Sebewaing hosted a dinner party at their home for Fr. Cooney and the prayer team before the service.

Czubachowski is a member of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship.



**FR. ART COONEY** led the Charismatic Renewal service last week at Holy Family Catholic Church in Sebewaing.