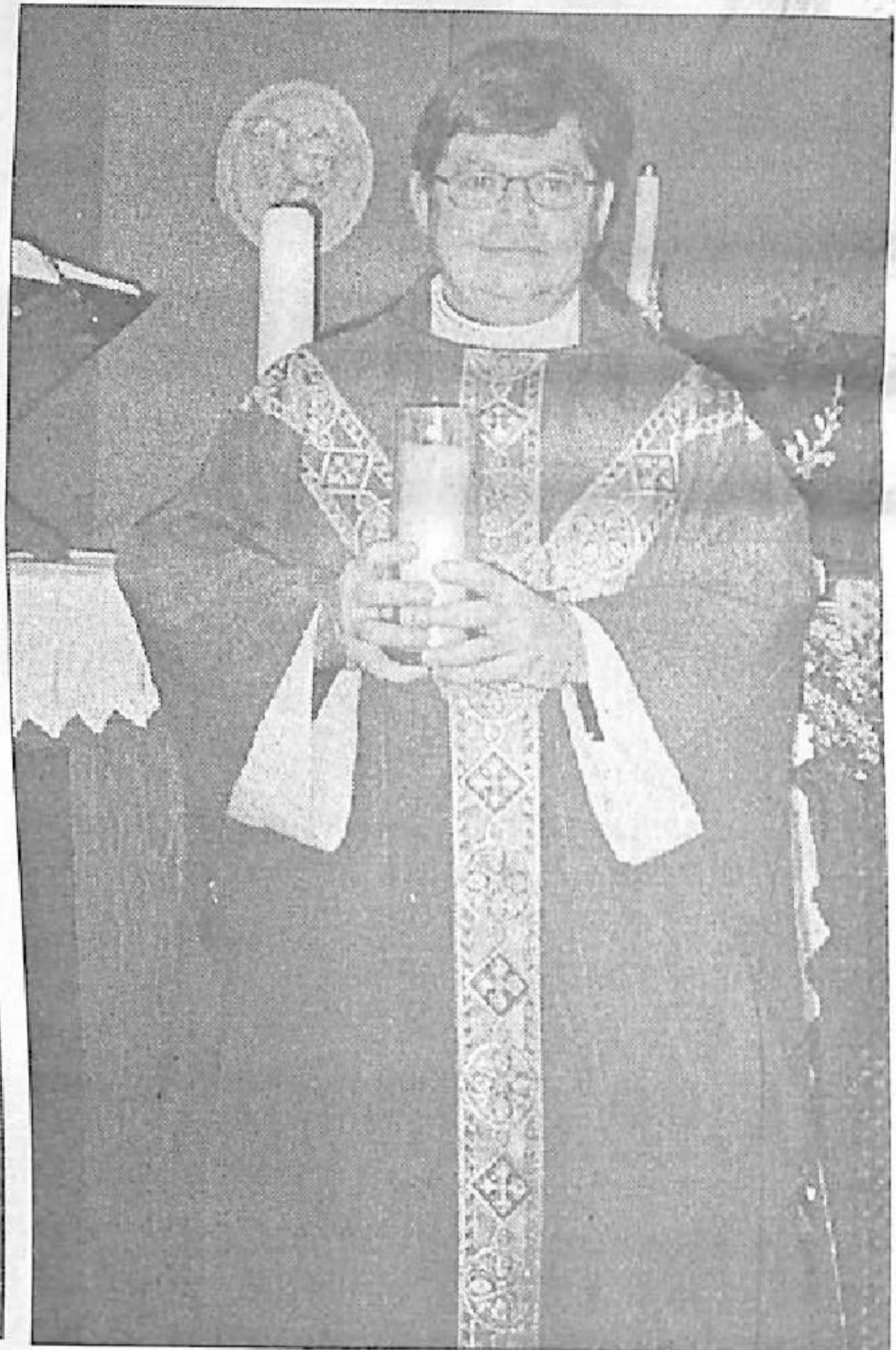


# candle carries their spirit

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Colborne Catholic Women's League members, left to right, a past president Joan Fawcett, current president Rose Sheldrick and charter member and past president Ann Hill with the cake served to those attending the last mass to be held at St. Francis de Sales Catholic church last Sunday. The Reverend Allan Donald Hood, parish priest serving at St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic church in Colborne, lit a candle to mark the spirit of the Colborne congregation. The candle will burn at St. Mary's, Grafton, where the parish is consolidating services.

congregation, loved coming here for services.

"There's a lovely spirit in this congregation, so, for me, it is a sad day," he said, his voice catching. "But my hope and prayer is that this spirit remains within you all, and in our parish and congregation as we move to St. Mary's, Grafton."

After 57 years in Colborne, St. Francis de Sales

church is closed, the Roman Catholic congregation consolidating with St. Mary's in Grafton. For the final celebration of mass, the church was packed with families, friends and well-wishers.

"As Father Hood said, we are the church, this is a building," Tass Corbier concluded her reminiscent remarks at the final service. "We will continue as a church, I am sure."

For many, the tiny, intimate church has been the site of significant events in the lives of families: baptisms, marriages and deaths; first Communion, serving as altar boys, playing euchre, supporting one another.

"In a very real sense, this church has been an ark of salvation for the people in this community over the past 57 years. A place to come in times of hardship and happiness," Rev. Hood noted.

As the service was ending, moments of silence were observed to allow the congregants to reflect on

the many things that have happened in the local congregation. Then, 30-year church member Tass Corbier, addressed the gathering.

"As we, the Catholic Women's League, were meeting to discuss plans for today, the comment 'Do you remember ... , do you remember?' kept coming up. So we're using the theme Down Memory Lane.

"This church opened in 1942 and there are at least two people in the congregation who remember when there was no (Roman Catholic) church in Colborne. Everyone used to go to Grafton. One parishioner told me their parents used to walk from Lakeport to Grafton to go to church, so you see, it's not that far to St. Mary's, Grafton, as things go in this day and age."

CWL charter member Ann Hill, in attendance last Sunday, was also marking her 71st birthday.

"It's sort of a sad way to mark a birthday," Mrs. Hill said on the lawn where luncheon and cake were being served following the service. But she brightened with other memories.

"I used to get a ride to church with Mrs. Alf Brown and her husband, and she's well over 90 now. I'm going to be like that."



Meaghan O'Neill, 17 months, enjoyed the luncheon served on the St., Francis de Sales church grounds after the final mass last Sunday. Meaghan is the daughter of Jim and Mary O'Neill.

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