

## Father V. J. Morgan Honored by Many Friends Celebrates 40th Anniversary of His Ordination

### Mayor Extends Council Wishes

One of the letters Father Morgan received congratulating him came from Mayor John Goy. It reads:

"I am especially pleased on behalf of Acton Council and all municipal employees to extend best wishes to you on the fortieth anniversary of your ordination to the Holy Priesthood.

"Your many years of devotion and service in St. Joseph's Parish represent a manifestation of your sincerity and are deeply appreciated by all residents of the community.

"Please accept our congratulations on this very auspicious occasion with a fervent hope for many more successful years."

### Many Gifts

Messages of congratulation came for Father Morgan from England, Ireland and Chicago.

Many Holy Masses were offered for his intentions. Among the many gifts were a nylon embroidered surplice, electric blanket, Benediction stole, hand woven tweed landscape of the Lakes of Killarney from Ireland by artist M. P. Coluhon, ordination scroll, sterling silver hand engraved cuff links, engraved letter opener, flowers, cincture, desk set and Rosary, spiritual book, cut glass ware, record album, statue of Pope St. Pius X, set of knives, set of decanters, many spiritual bouquets, decorated anniversary cake, fountain pen, a gift box of 40 silver dollars and a leather wallet.

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FATHER V. J. MORGAN was honored by his congregation and many friends Sunday when he observed 40 years in the Priesthood. He is pictured above during the reception in the church basement as he accepts a cup of tea and a cookie from Louise Wasowicz and Pauline Marks. Many citizens turned out for the reception to offer congratulations.

MANY CONGRATULATIONS were extended to Father V. J. Morgan Sunday on the 40th Anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood. Relatives were present for the occasion and some of the guests are pictured above with Father Morgan and Henry Deveau, who was in charge of the special event. Left to right are Mr. Deveau, Father Morgan's brother, Joseph from Hamilton, Father Morgan, Mrs. John Denny, niece from Fergus, Patricia Denny, grand niece, Fergus and Steve Stokl, nephew, Hamilton.

## Served Acton Parish 21 Years

Father V. J. Morgan was born and raised in the town of Collingwood near the shrine of the Canadian martyrs and attended public and separate schools in Collingwood. He moved to Hamilton in 1910 where he attended Collegiate. He took his philosophy course at St. Jerome's College in Kitchener, studied Theology at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto and was ordained June 10, 1922.

Four other priests were ordained for the Hamilton Diocese at the same time, all of whom have predeceased him, Fathers John Cowell, John Egan, Vincent Dermody and Thomas Traynor.

First Assignment  
Father Morgan's first assignment

after ordination was as assistant at St. Joseph's parish, Macton, to which was attached the Missions of Linwood and Elmira. In January 1924, the pastor, Fr. Weidner, was transferred to Freelon as pastor and Fr. Morgan was made pastor of Macton and Elmira. Linwood was then attached to St. Clement's parish. This arrangement only lasted two months when Elmira was made a Mission of St. Jerome's, Kitchener, and Fr. Morgan was made pastor of Linwood where he continued as pastor of Macton and Linwood until May of 1941.

During his pastorate in Macton and Linwood Father Morgan was instrumental in having built a drive shed and parish hall, having the hydro brought in and installed in the church and rectory and other buildings. Father also made many improvements to the church and rectory, enlarged the cemetery and erected a memorial cross on the cemetery grounds.

In Linwood the superstructure on the present St. Mary's Church was erected under his direction. He also purchased additional land adjoining the church for a future rectory.

21st Year Here  
On Mother's Day of this year Father Morgan celebrated his 21st year as pastor of St. Joseph's parish, Acton.

During his pastorate in Acton many improvements have been

done to the church and rectory some of which are church windows glazed, attic insulated, roof shingled twice, new gallery installed increasing seating capacity from 15 to 75 people, new pews purchased for the gallery, marble floors installed in church and parish hall, new Stations of The Cross, new paintings, walls of church and ceiling redecorated twice, new candelabra for the altars, automatic system controlling the ringing of the tower bell, fluorescent lighting in the church, floodlighting front of church and canopy over front doors to entrance of church.

The Parish hall was enlarged, toilet facilities installed, kitchen with all equipment for convenience of C.W.L. and other church groups, and many other improvements made to the properly surrounding church and rectory.

In Holy Cross Church, Georgetown, he was also instrumental in building a new gallery and installing new pews in the gallery and church proper. Marble floors were laid and two new side altars erected, church decorated and new electrical fixtures installed, new confessional and Stations of The Cross erected.

Installation of oil heating system in both Georgetown and Acton churches as well as in the rectory in Acton, procuring property adjoining the church in Georgetown.

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### Church Filled to Capacity When Parish Fetes Priest

Esteem and deep affection of parishioners was evidenced to Rev. Vincent J. Morgan on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood Sunday.

St. Joseph's church, decorated in red for the Feast of Pentecost — with 40 red carnations — was filled for the nine o'clock Mass and 10:30 Mass. In the afternoon and evening about 500 guests brought their hearty congratulations and best wishes to Father Morgan at an enjoyable reception in the parish hall. The whole parish had co-operated to make this day memorable for their beloved pastor, who has been here for the past 21 years.

Purse, Spiritual Bouquet  
At the close of the second Mass, John McHugh read an address and Miss Janet Braida presented him with a well-filled purse on behalf of the parishioners. Mike Bennett Jr. made the presentation of a spiritual bouquet.

After the earlier Mass, when new hymns had been sung by the junior choir under the direction of their leader, Mrs. E. Heffernan, Little Janice Drew presented Father Morgan with a spiritual bouquet on behalf of the junior choir and Mike Bennett Jr. on behalf of the altar boys.

Background for the altar was a deep red curtain for Pentecost and appropriate flowers decorated the altars. Special for the occasion were 40 red carnations.

The senior choir sang a special prepared High Mass. Father Morgan's nephew, Father Frank Morgan of Preston, was present in the sanctuary.

Esteem Of Parish  
In the address, John McHugh said, "Today we are gathered to honor a man who has for many years fulfilled, through the grace of Christ the offices of the ordained priest. It is rare in any field to find one who has worked tirelessly for forty years; it is more rare in the priesthood where the work is

never-ending and the mortality rate high. How proud we are that Father Morgan has spent twenty-one of these 40 years at St. Joseph's in Acton.

"Father, in these years, and we hope that they are many more, you have labored for us all. Our church from basement to choir loft attests to this fact. More important than a new roof, your generosity and sympathy are well-known throughout Acton.

"We have come together to express our deepest gratitude and to share in your celebration after 40 years as a priest and as a mediator between us, your friends and your parishioners, and our Heavenly Father.

"The few small gifts that we have brought are mere signs of the affection and the esteem that we have for you.

"We assure you of our prayers of which we all never cease to have need. In return, we ask your continued prayers and help."

Life Of Priesthood  
In reply, Fr. Morgan said he felt undeserving. He explained the life of the priesthood and the crosses and sacrifices it involves, but pointed out these are nothing in comparison to what the High Priest, Our Blessed Lord, carried and endured for mankind. The joys and consolations far outnumber the crosses and trials, he said.

He gave the number of baptisms, first communions, confirmations, weddings and converts in the parish during his pastorate here for 21 years and Georgetown for 15 years. The number of confessions and Holy Communions exceeds tens of thousands.

He thanked all his Parishioners and the committee in charge who organized this observance of his anniversary. With his thanks he expressed his love for all the citizens of Acton regardless of race, color or religion, and in conclusion he gave his blessing to all his parishioners, relatives and friends.

Streamers, Flowers Deck Hall At St. Joseph's Church Sunday  
St. Joseph's parish hall was hung with white and gold streamers and banked with fragrant flowers for the reception for Father Morgan Sunday afternoon and evening. It was estimated about 500 offered their congratulations and enjoyed the tea.

Receiving the guests in the afternoon were Mr. and Mrs. A. Papillon, Mr. and Mrs. W. Duval Sr., Mr. and Mrs. David Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Marks, Mr. and Mrs. Ilio Marzo, Nino Braida, and Miss Alma Braida, and in the evening Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Deveau, Mr. and Mrs. Don Timmings, Mr. and Mrs. Ed McGilroy, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Gibbons, Mr. E. T. Marks was in charge of the reception committee.

Refreshments were served by young ladies and women of the church, under Mrs. John South and Mrs. Rino Braida, from a very attractive tea table in the centre of the room. Mrs. Ray Arbie and Miss Alma Braida were in charge of the table, pouring tea and coffee were Mrs. S. Braida, Miss D. Gibbons (Acton's Citizen of the Year), Mrs. P. McCall, Mrs. J. Doherty, Mrs. J. McLaughlin, Mrs. H. Arbie, Miss B. Whelan and Mrs. Colin McColl. Mrs. A. E. White and Mrs. J. Tvers had made the lovely anniversary cake. Everyone received a piece.

The ladies of the parish catered under the direction of the Catholic Women's League, of which Mrs. Hartley Coles is immediate past-president and Mrs. J. Doherty the new president.

Hartley Coles was in charge of decorating and Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Marks arranged the flowers. The senior altar boys supervised the guest book and Henry Arbie provided recorded music.

The entire program of the day was arranged by Jack Doherty, president of the Holy Name Society and Henry Deveau, general chairman.

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