

Over 600 honor Rev. V. J. Morgan at open reception



A FEW WELL CHOSEN WORDS from former altar boy Peter Marks after the 10.30 Mass Sunday morning, preceded presentation of a spiritual bouquet to Father V. J. Morgan on the eve of his retirement. At an earlier Mass,

one of Father Morgan's original altar boys, Ray Arbic, made a presentation of a cheque from parishioners and wished the popular priest many more happy years in Acton.—(Staff Photo)

They came by the hundreds—Anglicans, Presbyterian, Baptists, members of the United Church, Agnostics, well wishers, friends, relatives, fellow clergy parishioners—to honor Father V. J. Morgan, retiring as pastor of St. Joseph's parish, Acton, after more than 30 years of service. Blessed by one of the warmest and sunniest summer days for several weeks a three hour reception to honor the retiring priest at the bright Acton music centre Sunday afternoon drew visitors from as far away as Chicago, Illinois, Halifax, Nova Scotia and Winnipeg, Manitoba and as near as the next street. Organizers estimated well over 600 people attended.

"It was a wonderful day," the genial priest said as he left the music centre after a full afternoon of hand shaking, greeting old acquaintances from former parishes at Acton, Linwood and Elmira as well as from his birthplace Collingwood, where he was raised and went to school.

Wonderful day The day started for Father Morgan like any other Sunday with a nine o'clock Mass at St. Joseph's where he was eulogized afterwards by former altar boy Ray Arbic and presented with a retirement cheque, money raised by parishioners to honor their pastor.

He said Mass again at 10.30 a.m. as is his usual custom and there was another presentation on behalf of parishioners by another former altar boy Peter Marks. This time the gift was a spiritual bouquet, another present from parishioners.

Father Morgan took the occasion to tell one of his humorous stories, leaving parishioners chortling as they left the church. "I must like Acton because I am staying here," he told his parishioners after each mass. "I love you all, regardless of any differences we might have had."

Moving to Church Almost 50 years a priest, Father Morgan is moving this week to his new home on Church St., across from the church he served for over 30 years. "I'm joining the rest of the Christians on Church St.," he told neighbors who dropped in to wish him well.

He'll be accompanied by his housekeeper Bernadette Whalen who confessed she first came as a housekeeper to "help out" in an emergency for a month. She stayed 21 years, a feat she feels developed because Father Morgan quit looking for someone else when she agreed to stay on a little longer.

Thursday evening last week the altar boys of St. Joseph's presented him with a cardigan sweater at the rectory on John St. and a social time followed with games, riddles, stories and refreshments. It was just one of many presentations.

Town present Friday afternoon last week Mayor Les Dudy and Acton clerk-administrator Joe Hurst dropped into the rectory and presented the popular priest with a 400 Day clock, on behalf of the town.

Saturday evening Bruce Shoemaker dropped in an left a smoking stand for Father Morgan's new home. Neighbors dropped by with a floral arrangement. The Acton Clergy Association, represented by Rev. Harry

Dawson and Rev. Walter Fosbury, at the reception, presented a set of night tables for his new home. Three of his priest companions endowed him with a wardrobe.

Sunday August 22 Mr. and Mrs. Louis Gibbons gave a surprise retirement party for Father Morgan at their summer home in Gilford, Ont. where he received a number of gifts. Mrs. Gibbons is a sister to his housekeeper, Miss Whalen.

Another delightful present—a set of Vatican coins and stamps commemorating the Holy Years of the 20th Century presented by Billy Middleton in an attractive cover.

Many visitors Guests came to the Sunday afternoon reception from Hamilton, Toronto, Kitchener, Waterloo, Preston, Galt, Walkerton, Elora, Fergus, Teeswater, Guelph, Kenilworth, Arthur, Collingwood, Creemore, Bay Ridges, Georgetown, Stewartown, Glen Williams, Niagara Falls, N.Y., Rockwood, Macton, Linwood, Elmira, Listowel, Weston, Scarborough, Rexdale, St. Clements, St. Agatha, London, Sarnia, Chicago, Halifax and Winnipeg.

Cablegrams and telegrams were also received, including one from Msgr. Didero conveying Apostolic Greetings and Blessings from Italy. Msgr. Didero, brother of a former Acton farmer, visited the parish and was tendered a reception here several years ago.

Cards and other greetings of affection and respect were received from many friends, well wishers and Members of Parliament, provincial and federal.

The reception Sunday was the high point of the week planned and run like clockwork by parishioners of the parish. Special guests included Rev. Joseph's.

Michael Bennett from Walkerton, another of Father Morgan's altar boys, who went onto the priesthood.

The retiring priest took two Sundays to render an account of his 30 years' stewardship for his parishioners. One of the highlights he felt was the fact he performed 129 marriages and had yet to hear of one which had broken up.

Pouring tea Pouring tea at the reception were Mrs. John McLaughlin, Mrs. S. Braida, Miss Madeleine Gibbons, Mrs. K. McCristall, Mrs. Ann Talbot, Mrs. Theo Papillon, Mrs. Archie Papillon and Mrs. Elizabeth Phillips who celebrated a birthday the previous day and is one of the oldest parishioners of St. Joseph's.

Helping in the kitchen and serving tables were many more parishioners including Helen Roe, Helen Fowler, Lucy Synnot, Mary Kenney, Mildred Hefterman, Mary Papillon, Joan

Usher retires with pastor

In the bustle honoring Father Morgan Sunday, few people were aware that long-time usher Arlie White announced he also was giving up his job, which he has served faithfully for 42 years, retiring with his pastor.

His retirement as an usher coincides with his retirement from Beardmore and Co. In September, where he has been employed 51 years. Arlie lives at 52 Church St.

Oldest parishioner at the reception honoring Father V. J. Morgan Sunday afternoon was Eugene Braida who remembers well the day over 30 years ago when the new priest came to St. Joseph's.

Charges laid laundry theft

Malevolent damage and minor thefts were reported to Acton police during the week, while there were no reportable accidents in town.

Two 16-year-old Toronto area youths and a juvenile were charged in connection with a theft August 27. The theft of about \$10 from a change dispenser at the Easy Coin laundry was reported to police August 27. The two were arrested, and the juvenile put in juvenile detention.

Tyres, Elma Braida, Mrs. Gerald Ashley, Olga and May Dyrwi, Mrs. Sylvester Rouse, Donna Milton, Mary MacColl, Lil Aherne, Frances Marcoux and Kitty Allen.

Mrs. Ray Arbic was in charge of the guest book which 527 visitors signed during the afternoon. Mrs. Arbic admits the influx of well wishers was so heavy at times it was impossible to get many to sign and she estimates there were well over 600 visitors.

Receiving line Parishioners who assisted on the receiving line included Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Rouse, Mr. and Mrs. Arlie White, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Arbic, Mr. and Mrs. Norm Braida, Mr. and Mrs. Ilio Marzo, Mr. and Mrs. Mario Baginski, Mr. and Mrs. Ed McGilloway, Ernie Marks, Mr. and Mrs. Don Milton, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Duval Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Hartley Coles.

Denis Gibbons headed a taxi service established to convey townspeople with no transportation to the reception. After the reception at the music centre a buffet supper at the rectory attended by relatives and out-of-town guests capped a memorable day for Father Morgan.

following questioning. They had been travelling in a stolen truck. Cons. Paul Brown investigated. They were remanded in court Monday.

Theft of about \$100 in change at the Relaxo coin laundry was also reported to police. The Easy Coin wash again—four windows were reported broken. The window in the front door at the Medical Centre was also broken.

Volkswagen hub caps were reported taken at Bill Toth's service station.

Two bicycles were reported stolen recovered, and charges are pending.

J. Lapointe inquest is postponed

The inquest date into the death of an Acton area farmer who was found shot through the head in his burning farmhouse on July 10 has been postponed until sometime in October, a spokesman from North Halton OPP reports. The inquest date had been originally set for Sept. 28, for the mystery death of Joseph Roger Lapointe, 31, of R.R. 4, Acton.

Constable Jim Hodson, investigating officer in the case, told this paper Inspector McCLOUD of the Criminal Investigating Branch in Toronto has to appear in court in Pembroke on the original date and would be unable to attend the inquest here.

He also said the coroner is on vacation and a definite date will not be set until Dr. Ivan Hunter returns from holidays next week.



GREETING FATHER Morgan at the reception in the music centre Sunday afternoon are Mr. and Mrs. William Middleton who presented the retiring pastor of St. Joseph's with a set of Vatican City coins and

stamps commemorating holy Years of the 20th Century. Mr. and Mrs. Theo Papillon and Mr. and Mrs. Ed McGilloway were also in the reception line at the time. (Staff Photo)

Underground farm mystifies council

Esqueing council was mystified Monday night when Frank Campbell of Mississauga asked permission to start an underground agricultural development.

It was the first time councillor had been asked to endorse an underground farm. However, after Mr. Campbell's explanation the development didn't sound so extraordinary. He told council he was interested in a five acre piece of property on the East half of Lot 12, Concession Four on which to start a nursery which would eventually involve going underground to raise flowers by artificial light. Only a small building would be exposed on the surface.

On long trips, take games and puzzles to keep children amused. "Bring 'Em Back Alive!"

A new U.S. government study shows the deadliest drivers on the highways to be divorced men. The Ontario Safety League says their death rate in traffic is 122 per 100,000 population—five times the average rate.

Shows model Mr. Campbell showed council a model of his development. The above ground growing portion would be mostly evergreens like any nursery, while underground beds would be forcing flowers like hyacinths by artificial light. The company is called Wintertime Flowers.

Councillors could think of no objections to the scheme but decided the matter should go to Planning board first for their comments before they endorsed the project.

On long trips, take games and puzzles to keep children amused. "Bring 'Em Back Alive!"

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