

Father Wood leaves Holy Cross

Transfer ends Capuchin service

Nine years after he joined Father Otger Devant to help build Holy Cross Roman Catholic parish in Georgetown, Father Pierre Wood has been reassigned to Newfoundland, marking, along with Father Devant's imminent retirement, an end to the service provided here by Capuchin priests since 1956.

Father Wood's departure this week for Queen of the World parish in Mount Pearl, Newfoundland, and Father Devant's move into semi-retirement this September were noted by members of the Holy Cross congregation Sunday as signals that the waning presence of the Capuchin fathers in Georgetown - a Catholic mission from 1882 until 1956 when the parish was founded - will no longer be felt.

Father Wood remained pleasantly optimistic about the future of the parish and the return of the Capuchin order in his farewell speech. "When I became a Capuchin, I took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience," he said. "Well, time has come and I must obey my superiors; I have to go, but I don't regret it. I feel sorry that the Capuchins are pulling out, but I hope we'll get enough vocations soon and we might get our parish back."

The Capuchin presence in Georgetown has fallen victim to waning interest among young people. So few Capuchins are available to run the parishes that Bishop Reding of Hamilton has chosen to reassign Father Wood and bring to Holy Cross two Diocesan priests who are

not yet members of an order. Father Devant, currently holidaying in the Netherlands, will end 20 years of service to Georgetown Catholics in September when he enters semi-retirement, likely to pursue theological studies elsewhere.

Father Wood was presented Sunday with gifts expressing the appreciation of parishioners involved in the Knights of Columbus, the Columbian Squires, the Catholic Women's League, the parish prayer group and the Holy Cross Parents Association.

The popular priest thanked his parishioners in the midst of their standing ovation and expressed hope that they will invite him back to Georgetown next year when Holy Cross celebrates its 25th anniversary.

Born Joseph Bernard Pierre Wood in Longueuil, Quebec, in 1942, Father Wood was raised in Windsor and entered a seminary at Blenheim before going to novitiate in Huntington, Indiana, where he made his First Vows in 1963; his Solemn Vows came three years later.

Ordained in 1970, Father Wood was assigned to Holy Cross in July, 1971, but was involved in an accident the following year which left him in a coma for almost a month. By December, 1972, he was back at Holy Cross. Father Wood was transferred to a Downsview parish in 1974, but returned again to Georgetown six months later.

His hobbies include stamp collecting and poetry.



Father Pierre Wood conducted his last religious service in Holy Cross parish Sunday - a double baptism - just prior to his well-attended farewell party in the church basement. After six years in the parish, Father Wood has been reassigned to a parish in Mount Pearl, Newfoundland. In his departing service, he christened sisters Debra Anne and Jacqueline Southern of Orangeville while proud mother Katherine Southern and godparents Ed and Maureen Caswell of British Columbia looked on. (Herald photo)

Drug education motion due

Halton board of education trustees Elaine Riehm and Harry Shepherd will be presenting a motion to the board tomorrow (Thursday) requesting the provincial government to provide drug education programs on the use and abuse of drugs to Ontario school children.

Mr. Shepherd, one of the Halton Hills trustees, said this week the motion was brought about in part by the recent study on drug abuse in Halton schools conducted by the Addiction Research Foundation. "When the Addiction Research Foundation brought their study to the board, I got a little upset that it seemed like they thought the board was ducking the problem of drug abuse, and that the board hadn't been concerned about the situation," Mr. Shepherd said. "It wasn't that the board was not aware of or concerned about the situation. The problem was how to go about correcting the situation. I think their recommendations have given us a number of options."

Revolver range awaits more study

The Halton Regional Police Commission has again postponed a study on the force's indoor revolver range. The range has been closed since it was discovered that the range master, Staff Sgt. Eric Bullock, had a higher-than-acceptable level of lead in his blood. A study was conducted on the range by the Occupational Health Branch of the Ontario ministry of labor, at the request of the police commission. The study showed lead levels to be too high in the range, and the commission ordered the range closed until

renovations could be made to improve the ventilation. Police Chief James Harding suggested an engineering study be conducted on the range to determine the best solution to the problem. The commission decided to await the results of a study done by the Hamilton-Wentworth Regional Police, who are having a similar problem. Chief Harding told the commission at a meeting in Milton Thursday that he had spoken with the engineer who was doing the work in Hamilton, and said he would like Halton to begin a study.



Constable Brian Farrell of Halton Regional Police was the investigating officer in an accident last week in which Jose Pereira of Streetsville went over an embankment on Maple Avenue and fell to the tracks below while riding his motorcycle. Mr. Pereira just escaped being struck by a train, since one passed by shortly after the accident. (Herald photo)

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