

FATHER F.J. MEYER CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

Photo by Inez McCuaig. Father Meyer, centre, with Mrs. Delia Meyer (his mother) on the left and Father F.R. St. James on the right.

What began as a parish celebration of Holy Angels' Roman Catholic Church in Schreiber, of Father F.J. Meyer's 25th Anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood, soon evolved into a community social marking the event. Mrs. Edmund Borutski was the able convener.

The event began with a special Mass followed by a dinner in the town hall. Michael Cosgrove, chairman of the Parish Council was the M.C. for the dinner.

Grace was said by Father George Bourguignon, a native of Schreiber.

With Fr. Meyer at the head table were: Father F.R. St. James; Vicar Capila, Diocese of Thunder Bay; his mother, Mrs. Delia Meyer; three sisters, Marguerite, (Mrs. William Melita) with her son Billy and daughter Mary Jane, Mary, with her husband, Mr. Frank Leonard, and Cathy with her husband, Ernest Kruegar; Reeve Harold McParland and his wife; Jack Stokes, MLA and his wife; and Mr. and Mrs. Norris Badanai. All but Mr. McParland and Mr. and Mrs. Stokes are from Thunder Bay.

Mr. Cosgrove said no introduction of Fr. Meyer nor his life in the community was needed, but did want to thank him for the leadership, good counsel and understanding he had given his parish and his contribution to the spirit and good will of the community.

Reeve McParland paid the same tributes to Father Meyer, then evoked gales of laughter by adding that for a "quiet man" he could certainly blow up a storm in his own neighborhood by his meticulous snow shovelling and he had earned the admiration of the Town Council by becoming the only unpaid member of their town men, by mastering the opening of drains in his vicinity.

Jack Stokes said he was pleased and proud

to share in a tribute marking 25 years of dedicated service, giving both Spiritual comfort and easing the worries and needs of every day life. He was most happy that Schreiber recognized the dedication of Father Meyer in carrying out his vows.

Among the many gifts presented formally were: a Book of Friendship - the leaves of bills - from the parish of Holy Angels and Rossport, and the townspeople, presented by Mr. Cosgrove; from the Catholic Women's League, by Mr. Lorette McParland; from the Knights of Columbus, by Edmund Borutski; from the staff of Holy Angels School, by Sister Marvel; from the Altar boys, by Mathew Borutski; from the Royal Canadian Legion, Br. 109, by Borden Ross; a framed picture of his ordination, by Mrs. Irene Borutski; from the students of Holy Angels School, a money tree, by Danny Duggan and Andrea Stortini; a personal gift from Jack Stokes; a family gift presented by his sister Mary (Mrs. Frank Leonard); a gift from other relations, by Frank Leonard; a personal gift from Hubert Badanai, presented by his son, Norris, who read a personal tribute to Fr. Meyer from his father. Friends from Nipigon also presented gifts.

Father Meyer in reply, said he was most grateful for the honour paid him by this occasion, although he felt he'd just been carrying on his duties. But, with the best intentions, he said, one makes mistakes, and to be forgiven for these, can make one very humble. He said he deeply appreciated the loyalty and friendship offered him, through his five years in Schreiber.

But, unfortunately, he continued, I have no prepared words and my congregation is well aware of my failing when I am without them. One of my early lessons about giving sermons was that starting them was usually easy - ending them was another matter. So, I resorted to taping, timing myself, typing out the shortened version and if any of you have noticed a certain abruptness, in my closing words, it is because, the second last page always reads --One More Minute!

And, despite Mr. McParland's remarks, he said that he was a professional drain-digger and will continue to contribute his experience to the town.

He thanked his mother and family, other old friends, relatives, and the clergy who had come to share this happy event with him.

Following the dinner, this group was swelled by others attending a reception in Holy Angels School to offer their good wishes to Father Meyer.

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