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Area priests mark anniversaries

Saturday, July 14, 2007
TIMES STAFF

Several area Catholic priests celebrate ordination anniversaries this year.

In all, 13 priests from the Diocese of Saginaw celebrated ordination anniversaries of 25, 40, 50 or 65 years during a special Mass recently at St. Agnes Church in Freeland.

They are: the Rev. Mike Wolf, 65 years, retired, St. John the Evangelist Parish in Essexville; the Rev. Dale Orlik, 40 years, St. Boniface Parish in Bay City; the Rev. Gerald Kukla, 40 years, Sacred Heart Parish in Kawkawlin and St. Valentine Parish in Beaver; the Rev. Thomas Kowalczyk, 40 years, St. Anne Parish in Linwood; the Rev. Kenneth Yaroch, 40 years, St. Roch Parish in Caseville and St. Felix Parish in Pinnebog; and the Rev. Joseph Griffin, 25 years, St. John the Evangelist Parish in Ubyly, St. Columbkille Parish at Sheridan Corners, St. Ignatius Parish in Frieburg and St. Joseph Parish in Argyle.

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The Times previously reported anniversaries for Wolf and Orlik but the following are four other priests celebrating special anniversaries from within our coverage area.

- The Rev. Gerald Kukla, pastor at Sacred Heart Parish in Kawkawlin and St. Valentine Parish in Beaver. Kukla was born on Jan. 17, 1942 in Bay City, where he attended St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish and School. He went on to study at St. Mary College and SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake and the University of Louvain in Belgium.

He was ordained on June 24, 1967, in Louvain, Belgium.

- The Rev. Thomas Kowalczyk, pastor at St. Anne Parish in Linwood. Kowalczyk was born on Aug. 26, 1941, in Bay City, where he attended St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish and School. He studied at St. Mary College in Orchard Lake and St. John Provincial Seminary in Plymouth.

Kowalczyk was ordained June 3, 1967, in Saginaw.

- The Rev. Kenneth Yaroch, pastor at St. Roch Parish in Caseville and St. Felix Parish in Pinnebog. Yaroch was born Nov. 14, 1939, in Harbor Beach and grew up attending Sacred Heart Parish and School in Bad Axe. He studied at St. Mary College in Orchard Lake, Mount Saint Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md., St. John Provincial Seminary in Plymouth and the University of Detroit.

He was ordained May 19, 1967, in Armarillo, Texas.

- The Rev. Joseph Griffin, pastor at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Ubyly, St. Columbkille Parish at Sheridan Corners, St. Ignatius Parish in Frieburg and St. Joseph Parish in Argyle. He was born Oct. 19, 1952, in Ames, Iowa, but grew up attending Blessed Sacrament Parish and School in Midland. He studied at St. Paul Seminary in Saginaw, the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., the University of Louvain, Belgium, and Wayne State University in Detroit.

Griffin was ordained Aug. 20, 1982, by Bishop Kenneth E. Untener at Blessed Sacrament Parish in Midland.

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