



Green Bay, The Compass

Four Capuchins residing in diocese celebrate jubilees

Friars to be honored during jubilee celebration July 18 at St. Lawrence Seminary

SPECIAL TO THE COMPASS

GREEN BAY — Capuchin friars will be celebrating their jubilee celebrations at St. Lawrence Seminary, the founding site of the Capuchin Province of St. Joseph, Mount Calvary, on July 18.

Four of the 12 jubilarians — Capuchin Friars Rupert Dorn (70 years), Robert Udulutsch, Bertin Samsa (65 years) and Kevin Hoagerty (60 years) — have served or currently reside in the Green Bay Diocese.

Fr. Hoagerty served 26 years as a missionary in the Republic of Panama in Chepo-Bayano-Chiman, an area which included over 100 communities, churches and chapels. Much of his time was spent visiting distant communities by foot, horse or boat along rivers, in mountains and along the Pacific coast.

"I cannot thank God enough for calling me to become a Capuchin-Franciscan, a priest and foreign missionary," he said. "The family spirit and joy of the Capuchins, their spirit of prayer and their ministry to the poor has always deeply inspired me."

Fr. Hoagerty is presently ministering to the elderly, regularly visiting a Spanish community and occasionally serves as a cruise ship chaplain. He resides at St. Fidelis Friary, the Capuchin retirement community in Appleton.

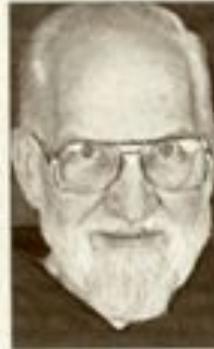
Fr. Udulutsch has served in many ministry capacities, but said his "most satisfying" was parish ministry, "particularly at St. Joe's in Appleton."

"It was there that I was able to work with others to create an ecumenical organization to address the poverty issues that people still face in the Fox Valley area of northeastern Wisconsin," said Fr. Udulutsch. Among the programs he helped create was LEAVEN (Limited Emergency Assistance Valley Ecumenical Network).

"LEAVEN has operated as a kind of 'financial emergency room' where people can come for help



Fr. Hoagerty



Fr. Udulutsch



Fr. Samsa



Fr. Dorn

when they encounter an emergency in their lives and can't find anyone else to help them," he said. "We usually can help them ... or direct them to others who are able to help them. The one thing virtually all religions agree on is helping the needy. That fits the definition of ecumenism: to get together and work collaboratively on those things on which we agree. LEAVEN has been doing that for 27 years now. It serves about 7,000 households a year."

Fr. Udulutsch resides at St. Fidelis Friary in Appleton.

Fr. Samsa was pastor of St. Peter and Paul Parish in Weyauwega for 15 years, the longest time he's spent anywhere in his varied ministry. He has served community parishes, four years at an American Indian mission in Montana, seven years in the Middle East and for 24 years as an Army chaplain at various bases in the United States, Italy, Germany and Vietnam. Seven of those years were as a military chaplain to prisoners.

"I've had a great life," Fr. Samsa said. "I enjoyed

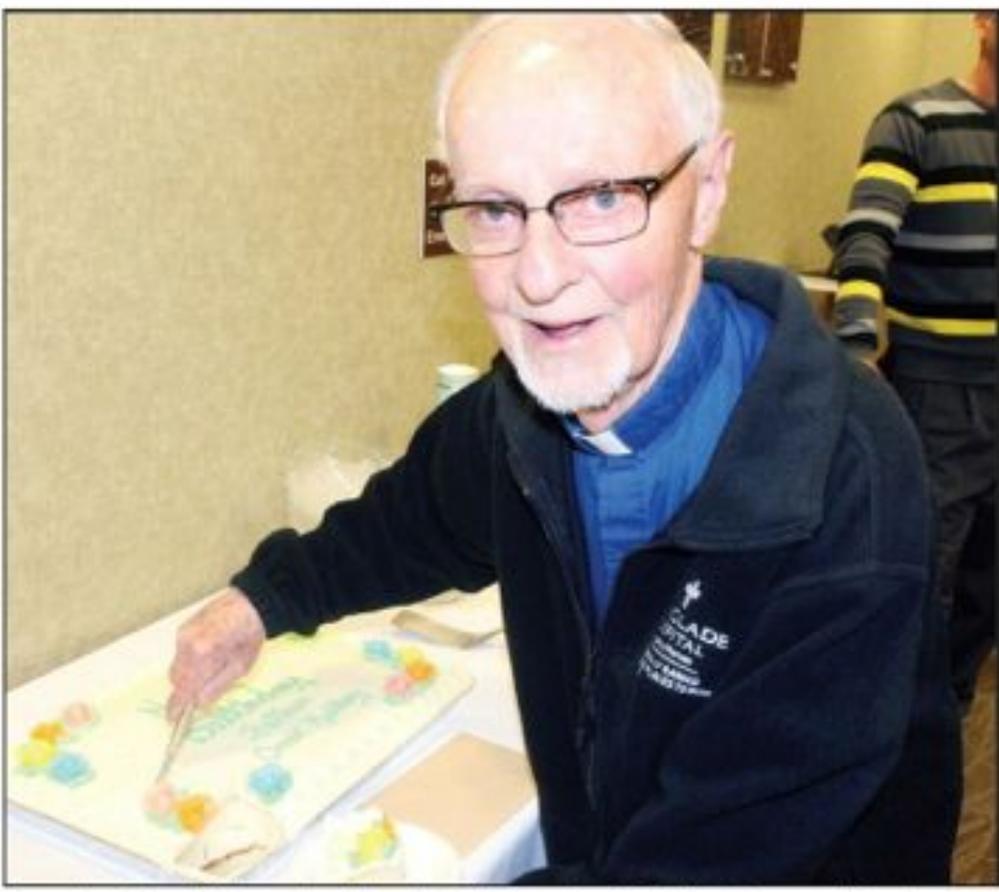
every assignment. I've traveled the world around a couple of times and I've never been lonely. Most of my work has been parish work, even in the military. There's a family there as close to you as your own family."

He called the ministry of being a parish priest the "epitome of the priesthood."

"You're actually serving the church. Being a pastor is the greatest thing. That's where the action is. You're working with people," he said. "We all do the same work — bringing the faith and keeping your parishes going. I did my job." He resides at St. Fidelis Friary.

Fr. Dorn has served in various ministries in the province, including as a teacher, pastor, provincial secretary, three terms as provincial councilor (1958-1967) and then two terms as provincial minister (1967 to 1973). He led the friars during the religious and cultural change in the wake of the Second Vatican Council. Fr. Dorn now lives at St. Paul Home in Kaukauna.

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Rev. Omer Kelley cutting his cake for his surprise 92nd birthday party Monday.

Hospital chaplain Rev. Kelley marks 92nd birthday with a surprise party

Rev. Omer Kelley, who has served as Langlade Hospital chaplain for nearly four decades, celebrated his 92nd birthday with a surprise party Monday.

Staff and the sisters of the Religious Hospitaliers of St. Joseph presented the diminutive Irish priest with a cake following the morning Mass.

It also marks the priest's 65th anniversary of ordination.

"Father Omer is loved by all associated with Langlade Hospital," Dave Schneider, hospital CEO, said. "His tireless ministry has served as a beacon of hope to hundreds of people as he has ministered to the sick and dying as well as to families and hospital staff. He's known around the hospital for his gentle kindness, unlimited energy, compassion and love of others and has served as an

See Father Kelley Page 7



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...ing into town this morning. The bus is presented by the Antigo Rotary Club. had to move quickly, preparing for an after-

Continued

Father Kelley

example of how deep faith and service to others can change the world."

The pastor was born on July 13, 1922 in Madison, a son of Earl and Mae (Trost) Kelley, and after some early bumps due to his adventurous nature, graduated from St. Lawrence Seminary at Mount Calvary.

Kelley was ordained for the Capuchin Order at St. Mary Church, Marathon on June 3, 1949 by Bishop John Treacy.

He continued his education, earning a degree in philosophy at Mary Immaculate House of Philosophy in Glenclyffe, N.Y. and theology at St. Anthony Friary in Marathon. Post-graduate studies were done in theology at Gregorian University in Rome.

"That was wonderful," he says of that Rome experience.

He originally seemed destined for the university, but explained that his Superior thought some parish experience would be good first. He was sent to Harlem, N.Y., to Queen of Angels Catholic Church and then transferred to St. Elizabeth in Milwaukee when the Capuchin Province was divided into eastern and western zones. When that year of experience ended, he returned to northern Wisconsin to serve as professor of theology and liturgy at St. Anthony Seminary in Marathon.

"After four years I sort of preached my way out of teaching," he said. "I was assigned to the mission band, preaching at missions and retreats."

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Alzheimer's

first period, new cases were

His next experience took him to Ras Tanura in Saudi Arabia, where he ministered to expatriate Catholics working in the oil industry for three years.

"We went in as teachers and never dressed as priests," he said. "It was country club living."

Saudi Arabia was an experience, but Kelley wanted to come home. With a bit of intercession from longtime friends in the area, was offered the position of pastor of St. Wencelous Catholic Church in Neva.

"I said I'd love a little parish like that," he said. "They wrote back and said it was mine if I wanted it."

Although ordained as a Capuchin, Kelley said he found himself spending less and less time within the group and more and more time involved in parishes.

"I still love the Capuchins," Kelley said. "But I wasn't keeping as close to it and being as involved as I thought I should. I wanted to be a diocesan priest."

He was incardinated into the Diocese of Green Bay on April 26, 1980.

Kelley stayed at St. Wencel for 18 years, retiring at age 72 in 1994, and then served as priest at SS. James-Stanislaus Parish in White Lake for 11 additional years.

Over 65 years, he has had many other responsibilities as well, including as a field advocate for the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal and a member of the Presbyteral Council.

The one duty he continues to hold dear is his role as hospital chaplain, greeting and counseling thousands of Catholics and non-Catholics alike over the decades.

"I love being able to see the people and talk with them," he said. "I know most of the

people in Antigo—Catholics and non-Catholics—through the hospital.

"I try to keep their spirits up and administer the sacraments to those who are facing death," he added. "I try not to pester them."

He also continues to lead Mass in the hospital's chapel five days a week, including Saturday, when Schneider said the chapel is often standing-room-only.

"He is especially well-known for his homilies, which while usually short, strike at the hearts and souls of the congregation," Schneider said. "With powerful conviction and passion, and sometimes tears, Father Omer reminds those present of the profound love of God and the importance of sharing that love with one another."

Schneider said that, as Kelley enters his 92nd year, those around him are becoming more aware of his fragile health and the reality that a day will come when his ministry will end.

"Yet he remains tireless in his work and can be seen arriving at the hospital most mornings with a kick in his step and a song in his heart," Schneider said. "Surely there is a special place in heaven reserved for this selfless and humble servant of God."

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Highways

bill runs out. In an effort to keep the pressure on Congress to act, President Barack Obama on Tuesday visited a transportation research center in Virginia.

Democrats complain that it won't be any easier under the GOP bill to reach a compromise on sustainable, long-term means to pay for programs by pushing off a deci-

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