



MEET YOUR PASTOR -- FR. JAMES BRINKMAN

Fr. Jim is a native of New Richmond, having grown up on the East side. Prior to his ordination to the priesthood on August 9, 1981, Fr. Jim's expertise lay in the field of marketing. Among the parishes he has served are St. Bridget's, River Falls; St. Patrick's, Hudson; St. Mary's, Rhinelander; St. John's, Birchwood; Webster Area Catholic Churches, Burnett County; and St. Anne's, Somerset prior to his appointment to Immaculate Conception in New Richmond and St. Patrick's in Erin almost 4-1/2 years ago.

Fr. Jim enjoys serving here. When asked what he likes most about Immaculate Conception and St. Patrick's in Erin he responded with the diversity that both parishes offer as a city and country ministry, each has its own unique personality. Among the other things he likes are the facilities, the school, staff, KCs and the friendliness of the parishes. He also enjoys teaching children and adults about their Church and faith. His role as Pastor is an extension of our Bishop in handling the spiritual and temporal needs of our parish; as a teacher and sacramental minister, and day-to-day business operations of the parish. About a year after he began his service here, Fr. Jim started the Council of Ministries, which has a different structure, yet does the same function as a Parish Council.



Anyone walking into Fr. Jim's office will notice Cornelius, a large teddy bear who appears to be reading a book. In 1982, while serving as associate pastor at St. Bridget's in River Falls, he received a gift which was handmade by the Nuns who resided in River Falls. Cornelius was made when Fr. Jim was looking for a prop to use for Children's Liturgies. Naming this bear was not difficult; Cornelius seemed to suit it well.

When Fr. Jim is not busy with his pastoral responsibilities, he enjoys being outdoors doing physical work. At one time or another, he can be seen mowing his lawn, raking leaves, picking up branches after our trees were trimmed last year, reseeding lawn where trees once stood, and working in his flower garden. In his off time, Fr. Jim enjoys listening to Classical music, riding his bike, visiting with families, sailing and watching good movies. He enjoys Classics and war stories. Currently he



is watching a series of DVDs about World War II.

Although serving in his hometown parish is not a typical assignment for a parish priest, Fr. Jim maintains his commitment to serve as he would in any other parish.



Bike Riding



Sidewalk Sweeping



Barbecuing



Seeding church lawn



Cleaning up after tree trimming



Preparing to stripe the parking lot