

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> 1993



Mr. Bill Sheeler is pictured here talking about injustice to the crowd who came for the Ecumenical Service held recently for the Renew season.

## Fourth Renew Ecumenical Service

Father Paquette addressed his Renew Organizational Committee and suggested that an Ecumenical Service should be considered in this season of Renew...especially with the theme of the 4th week. Injustice and in the world everyone suffers from this and only prayer and searching one's own heart can any change take place. The Rev. Peg Wheeler was approached to assist the committee.

All the ministers of the area where invited, this included Disciples, Baptist, United, Presbyterian, Anglican a total of 5 different denominations participated.

The guest speaker was Bill Sheeler, former teacher at West Elgin District High School who gave a very strong account of the injustices in the world, our community and ourselves.

He said distribution of wealth continues to plague the world; life is being devalued by war, starvation, poverty and abortion; broken promises, poor listening skills and low achievement have made our leaders ineffective.

"The most obvious injustice of all came in the spiritual area. Our God loved us sent his son to be his representative and show us what God is really like. Our welcome was a cross - a sinless man dying for the sins of the world." He concluded with the following, "However out of this injustice came the risen Christ who offered comfort and home to all who would believe. Today we claim that offer so that we might not only withstand, but continue to seek solutions to injustices each of us must bear."

The offertory taken up at his service was divided equally with the West Elgin Daffodil Society and St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre the amount for each \$400.

The St. Mary's School Choir opened the service with two well picked songs. The Portuguese choir was present and sang in their own language much to the surprise of the congregation.

Mrs. Jackie Leitch was the soloist accompanied by Mrs. Shirley Walker who also played for the various hymns for the evening.

During the intercessions given by Father Paquette a lighted candle in the hands of all "lighted from one candle it is a visible reminder that the light of Christ is among us. There is a mutually strong symbolism in that when many people share the same flame from same original candle, there is a type of unity found there which is centered on the light of Christ being found among us. That feeling that this symbolism is a worthwhile venture together with the friends and neighbours we have here in West Elgin."

A first time ecumenical service proved to have an overwhelming effect on all who attended...a visible sign of Renew at work in our community.

Ministers attending from the various churches where the Rev.'s P. Wheeler, W. Zavitz, D. Clements, J. Potter, R. Fuit and D. Stewart.

The flowers decorating the church were donated by the J. Ingratta family as a memorial for the deceased in their families.



## 50 years of ordination

# Celebrating with Fr. DeJonge

On Sunday July 18th Father James DeJonge celebrated his 50th year of Ordination to the priesthood, at St. Mary's Church, West Lorne, with a mass of Thanksgiving.

To celebrate 50 years in any state of life is a remarkable achievement and for Father DeJonge a dream come true. Someone said it is a success story, but how does one define success? Webster's dictionary describes success as "a favourite or desired outcome of something attempted - attainment of wealth"... How does one relate this to this life?

Father DeJonge was born in Holland August 25, 1913 one of 6 children to Marie and Case DeJonge. At 14 years he entered the junior Seminary and in 1943 was ordained to the priesthood.

After his ordination due to the war and the occupation of his country he found himself involved in underground activities, as well as continuing his studies whenever possible. At one point of the liberation of his province of Zeeland he was able to search out his family with the assistance of a ride with the 9th American Army. To his great joy he found them well and unharmed.

When sick and under nourished children were sent to England he accompanied them and through this he met Lord and Lady Beaverbrook who at the time took great interest in these children.

A few months in England and he was approached to be-

come Chaplain for the Netherlands army and also for the English camps.

Chaplain in the army took him to Indonesia with the Dutch Forces and there he spent 3 years as combat chaplain in Sumatra in the jungles.

Three years in the jungle were very difficult and it was said that one had to reconstruct their lives when they again reach civilization. He always claimed the boys in his battalion were the greatest both morally and as soldiers and many still keep in contact with him.

After his time in the army he was approached to come to Canada and in 1950 he left home again to take another challenge which took him to the Sacred Heart Seminary, in Delaware and from that time on he would help the new immigrants as they arrived in the various districts.

On his arrival to this area he went to see his uncle in Dutton and said his first mass at St. Helen's Church, Wallacetown.

The months that followed would take him to different parishes to assist until one day he was given the task to establish a parish, and build a church near Stoney Creek (Elfidra) in Hamilton. With \$1,000, immigrants and some Canadian families and a lot of determination he began this task, and accomplished it. Being a priest in these days had many diversions, spiritual leader, consoler of the homesick, bus driver for the school children to the neighbouring parish school, realtor, builder, employment agency (for the

immigrants needed someone to look after this until they understood enough of the language and the ways of the country). So many jobs, and still they had time to laugh and "stick together as a team until they had their church, rectory and in the process of a school. But again after 5 years of struggle he went to another parish where he was needed to solve another situation.

On Sunday, July 18th a special celebration was thrown in honour of Father DeJonge's 50 years in the priesthood. And so at this celebration it was these friends and acquaintances, as well as local parishioners and friends that travelled miles to attend his 8:30 mass and join in the reception that followed.

Many spoke of the kindness and untiring sacrifices he made in helping them in their desperate situations. Many cards of congratulations repeated the same both in English and Dutch. Now at nearly 80, he still says mass every day despite his handicap.

He loves people and the church so how does one relate success to his life... again, as Webster's dictionary describes it "... a favourable or desired outcome of something attempted" Despite all his hardships and disappointments he found the desired outcome as a priest of the Sacred Heart Order and the attainment of wealth also described by Webster, is the Wealth of many friendships, and the knowledge that he has served his Lord to the best of his ability.



Irene McGregor pushes Fr. DeJonge at Mass



Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1993

## ECUMENICAL SERVICE HELD AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Praying together, sharing together and remembering together was the theme of Sunday night's Ecumenical service held at St. Mary's Church in West Lorne. A combined effort on the part of the ministers of the district participating, left a message of love and joy for all who attended, a joint effort to help the less fortunate as well as make aware that we only find peace through love.

A time of remembrance.... sometime in our lives, we may have lost a friend or loved-one, very often a young person, and it is fitting that for a few moments we stop to think of them, to say a little prayer, to reflect on how they impressed our lives and then as quietly as we do this we leave them to rest. Jason Goldsack, in a youthful rendition expressed it all as he sang "Friends" and "Nothing Else Matters". The

youth of our age have their own way of expressing themselves and it was evident from these songs that Jason remembered for all.

The Children's Choir made up of students from St. Mary's School along with guests from other denominations opened the service with fitting songs sung with child like sincerity....this was followed by St. Mary's Adult Choir and the Portuguese Choir.

The soloists for the service was Bernard Griegoschewski of St. Mary's Choir and Mrs. Jackie Leitch accompanied by Mrs. Shirley Walker. The hymns chosen were very fitting for the occasion being "How Great Thou Art" and one of Mrs. Leitch's songs "One Day at a Time".

Ministers participating in the service were the

Reverends: R. Fluit (Presbyterian) David Stewart (Disciples), Ann Mills (Anglican), Wilbur Zavitz (Baptist), Evelyn McLachlan (United), David Clements (Presbyterian), replaced by Mrs. Betty King, Ronald G. Paquette (Catholic) and Peg Wheeler (Anglican) and homilist.

Rev. Peg Wheeler, in her homily spoke of being a Peacemaker. What a wonderful world we would have if each one practised love, kind words and had an optimistic approach in all things. The very happy, retired minister, poured her heart out in stressing the finding of good in people and what a wonderful world it would make. The message will long be remembered and no doubt will be a great influence in shaping the lives of those who attended, in the

days to come.

The offertory collected will be divided equally with the West Elgin Daffodil Society, who do so much good for those in need in the district and the St. Joseph's Hospitality Centre, London, who run a soup kitchen feeding hundreds of the less fortunate of our times in one day.

In his closing remarks, Father Paquette expressed his gratitude to all those who participated in the service, a special thanks to the ministers who so graciously gave their time to be part of a very worthwhile endeavour of showing love and sharing for all people.

The service concluded with the closing hymn "Go tell it on the Mountain" with Mrs. Knapp and the St. Mary's Choir leading the congregation.

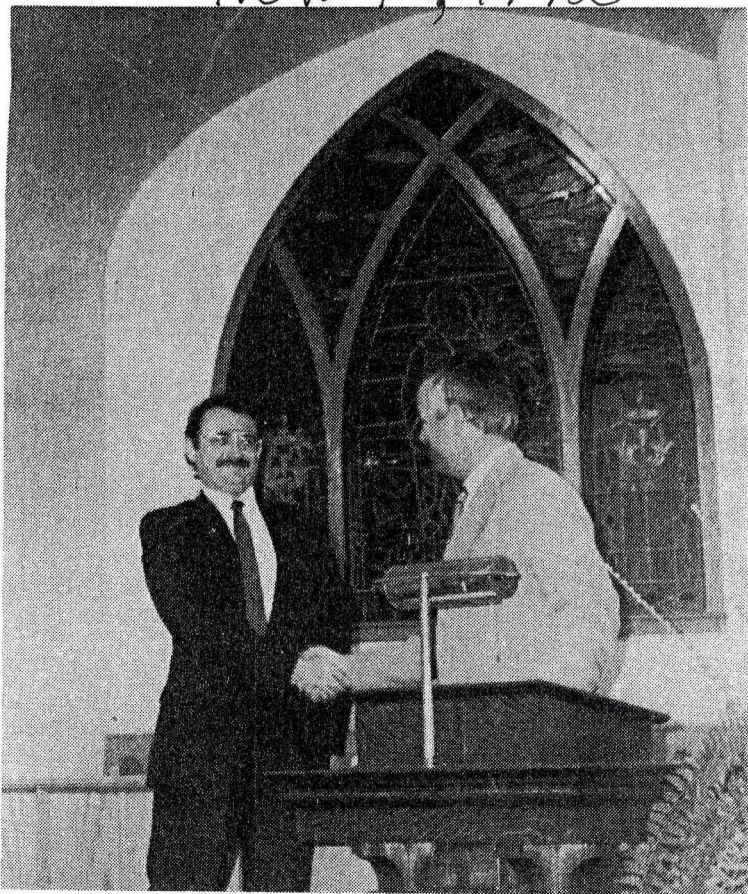
cury, The West Lorne Sun, Wednesday, October 20, 1993 -- 3



Down with the old and up with the new. Pictured here is the house beside the St. Mary's Church in West Lorne being demolished to make way for the new parish hall to be constructed.



NOV. 4<sup>th</sup>, 1992



The Reverend Wilbert Zavitz

# Local Baptist minister ordained

By Ruth Ferguson

On Friday, October 23, at the West Lorne Baptist Church, an ordination council for Pastor Wilbert Zavitz was held. Approximately 50 delegates from Elgin Baptist churches were in attendance, as well as many people from the joint Rodney and West Lorne congregations, to hear Pastor Zavitz give his statement of faith and doctrine.

Following a question period, a unanimous vote by the delegates was given to proceed with Mr. Zavitz's ordination.

The ordination service was held at the Rodney Baptist church last Thursday evening, October 29, with approximately 125 clergy, friends, family and members of the congregations in attendance to witness this turning point in their Pastor's career.

Mr. Keith Campbell, moderator of the Elgin Association of Baptist Churches, welcomed those present and introduced those who were taking an active part in the service.

Mr. Howard Knight, an O.B.C. friend of the pastor's led in worship and prayer. Special music was

provided by Rev. Peter Burritt, pastor of the Dutton and Iona Station Baptist churches, and was accompanied by his sister, Mrs. Barb Evans. Rev. Klaus Hilderbrandt, pastor of the Clachan and Bothwell churches, read scripture and Graham Barnes, Erie Area Director, gave an inspiring message entitled "Be a Hopeful, Hope-filled Pastor".

The ordination prayer and the laying on of hands on candidate Zavitz was led by Rev. Bob Lewis, pastor of Forest Baptist church. Mrs. Keith Campbell provided accompaniment for the congregation in the singing of several hymns.

A delicious lunch was served by the ladies of the Rodney Baptist Church following the service. The presentation of a joint gift from both charges, as well as other gifts from his family and friends also took place. Reverend Zavitz expressed his thanks to his congregations for the framed print and also expressed his thanks and gratitude to everyone for their support and patience while he worked toward this day.

Congratulations to the new Reverend Wilbert Zavitz.