

Newly ordained priests to receive religious effects from Our Lady of Lourdes

WEST ORANGE—In 2008, Lisa Westheimer, an artist in residence at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, received an assortment of religious articles owned by deceased priests. Originally entrusted to entrusted to Rev. Msgr. Edward G. Bradley, director of the archdiocesan Ministry to Retired Priests, the articles showed signs of years of sacramental use.

Many of the items came from Father Francis T. Gavin, who died in 2002, and Father John F. Doyle, who died the next year.

For a long time they sat untouched because Westheimer had no idea what to do with the objects, until coming across a broken plaque with a handwritten certificate commemorating Fr. Gavin's ordination on May 31, 1947.

Conception Seminary School of Theology in which the chalices and patens of deceased or retired priests are refurbished and bequeathed to new priests.

The Our Lady of Lourdes team meets each year during Lent. "We gather supplies that we have at home and pool them," Westheimer said. "During our meetings we get a sense of our individual talents and use them collectively to repair the objects."

Then, the members of the workshop team pass along the results of their labor to the candidates for priesthood ordination.

Little did they know that this year's effects would include Msgr. Petrillo's oil stock and pyx, the small container used to carry Holy Communion to the sick or homebound.

In a very personal way, the team now saw what Msgr. Petrillo meant by encouraging them to use their talents to take the concept of death, transformation and resurrection one step further

"It is a wonderful way to cel-



Submitted photo

Lisa Westheimer, right, presented newly-ordained Father Duberley Salazar Gonzalez with an embroidered stole that once belonged to Father Norbert Laskowski. Fr. Laskowski was the former pastor at Saint Cecilia Parish, Kearny, and Sacred Heart Parish, Rochelle Park. He died on Jan. 29.

brate the many years of selfless and committed service of the retired and deceased priests while, at the same time, expressing our utmost gratitude to the men who are about to embark on a journey of lifetime service," Westheimer said.

On April 23, restoration workshop members visited the Archdiocesan Center in Newark to meet the 2014 ordinandi and present them with the restored gifts.

It was the first time Msgr. Petrillo had not attended.

"We dedicated this event to him," Westheimer said. His pyx and oil stock were entrusted to Pedro Repollet, who served his diaconate at Our Lady of

Lourdes, and began his tenure under Msgr. Petrillo, whom he greatly admired.

Among the other effects passed on were stoles—some beautifully embroidered and one commemorating a 50th anniversary of ordination.

Most of the effects were from deceased priests including, Fathers Norbert Laskowski, Martin O'Brien, Felipe Lopez and Rev. Msgrs. William Naedele and Edward Kavin. Effects from retirees Rev. Msgr. Edward J. Hadjuk were also distributed. All

candidates received biographies of the previous owners.

The group thanked Rev. Msgr. Thomas P. Nydegger, who replaced Msgr. Petrillo as the archdiocesan Executive Director of Clergy Personnel. "His whole-hearted support of the continuation of this project means so much to the committee," Westheimer said. The committee also thanked Msgr. Bradley for his support and for gathering the objects and biographies from the deceased and retired priests.



Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Petrillo, former pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in West Orange, died Dec. 20, 2013.

"I could not believe that this commemoration of service had remained in a bag, in broken pieces for so long," she said. The thought turned out to be her inspiration. Why not restore the sacramentals and pass them on?

That was in 2009 and, her pastor, Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Petrillo, encouraged Westheimer to invite others to help. That led to the formation of the parish Restoration Workshop and team. Before he died suddenly in December, Msgr. Petrillo also encouraged the group in handing on the restored items to candidates for ordination in the Archdiocese of Newark

The program is similar to one sponsored by Immaculate



Rev. Pedro Repollet



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