

## Who's New at St. Agnes?

While Father Joy is back home in India through much of January, two retired priests are subbing for him at Mass. From Christmas eve through January 6, **Father Bill Key** will celebrate Mass at St. Agnes. And for the following two weeks, Father Ralph Gross will take over.

### Meet Father Bill.

A retired priest of the Milwaukee Archdiocese, Father Bill "fills in" as the temporary replacement for priests when they need to be gone from the parish. He obviously enjoys music at Mass, even on weekdays when he leads the congregation in Christmas hymns. No matter if there is no organist, he is happy to lead the singing *a capella*.

He says he enjoys saying Mass at a variety of parishes because each place is unique. Last summer, for example, he said the Spanish Mass on Sundays at Holy Hill. He also helps out at St. Adalbert regularly, where he also says the Mass in Spanish. (He also knows German, Greek and Latin!).



What is truly unusual is that Father Bill is fluent in sign language. As a seminarian, he volunteered to teach at St. John's school for the Deaf and even went on to study a semester in Washington D.C., at what is now Gallaudet University, which serves deaf students from around the world. Instead of continuing there to pursue a teaching career, he returned to the seminary to complete his preparation for the priesthood. Having learned to sign, Father Bill is able to serve the deaf community in the Milwaukee area and continues to offer Mass through signing for retreats.

Now that he has retired, he also helps out at parishes when the resident priest is out of town, just as he is doing here at St. Agnes. He is an avid reader and listens to audio books while driving. Recent books were three biographies: Teresa of Avila, St. Rose of Lima and *Father Augustus Tolton: The Slave Who Became the First African-American Priest*.

Raised in Kewaskum, Father Bill visits his sister there regularly; another sister lives in Appleton; and he visits with his brother (now in Eugene, Oregon) when he comes to Milwaukee for the Harley rallies.

Father Bill enjoys downhill skiing. In fact, for 25 years he was a guide for blind skiers on Sunday nights. He was sponsored by the Lions' Club BOLD program (Blind Outdoor Leisure Development).

Father Bill's advice for Catholics today: "The Eucharistic Revival inspires us. The Real Presence is here: tell your friends," he said. The Eucharistic Revival is taking place in the United States. We are now in *Year One: The Year of the Parish*, when small-group parish communities can deepen their understanding of the Real Presence and encounter the Lord together through true reverence and devotion to the Eucharist.