

Aurora priest celebrates 50 years of ministry, 38 years as police chaplain



Rev. Jerome L. "Father Jerry" Leake, 76, pastor at St. Joseph Catholic Church, was honored on his 50th anniversary of ordination.

Events included a mass at 10:30 a.m., followed by an open house and lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition to leading St. Joseph for 20 years, he serves as senior chaplain for the Aurora Police Department. He's been doing it since 1975, except for a few years when he was chaplain for Elgin's department.

After graduating from Chicago's Quigley Preparatory Seminary, Rev. Leake was ordained May 25, 1968. His assignments included Our Lady of Good Counsel parish and Rosary High School, Aurora, 1968-1970; Sacred Heart parish and Aurora Central Catholic High School, Aurora, 1971-1994; St. Joseph Parish, Elgin, 1994-1997; and St. Joseph parish, Aurora, 1997-present.

Rev. Leake reflected on his golden anniversary of priesthood in the May 27 "St. Joseph Parish Community," the church's newsletter.

He said, "I could write a book about being a pastor, a high school religion teacher and a police chaplain. Maybe when I retire; but for now I would like to share some reflection..."