

NEWS • REGIONAL UPDATE

As Steeple Crowns New Church, Dream Comes True for Gilford Priest

By BOB TIS
Staff Writer

GILFORD — A bright autumn sun shone brightly on the frame of Father Hector Bolduc's church this week as it was capped with a gleaming white steeple.

Measuring 85 feet from the steps to the gold cross on top, the chapel sits across from the family farmhouse, located high on Morrill Street with a breathtaking view of the valley below. It is a dream Father Bolduc has had ever since his father, Charles H. Bolduc, wished for it just before he died in 1983.

Foundation for the chapel, which will be named Immaculate Conception Church, was poured one year ago, Father Bolduc explained. If construction stays on schedule, he hopes to open the doors to the public next summer.

Presently, Father Bolduc conducts Masses in the family home across the street for approximately 80 parishioners.

"We have never been able to say much about it," he said, explaining that space constraints would not allow him to advertise services in the farmhouse.

Father Bolduc has just returned from Rome where he heard Pope John Paul II once at Mass and twice when he was in a group of about 100 other people who had audiences with the Pope. He reported also receiving encouragement and support from a number of high ranking cardinals and monsignors who, as Father Bolduc puts it, "take care of people who want to stay with the traditional Catholic Mass."

A graduate of Catholic University in Washington D.C., Father Bolduc completed his master's degree in history in Ethiopia. It was from there he traveled to

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come out with a decree to give full authority to priests who wish to practice the Latin Mass.

"Even with this," he explained, church officials advise that he "not get involved in public scandals or debate," and to let higher ups in the church deal with policy.

"Rome has said it is the right of all priests to celebrate the Latin Mass," he said. "This will open a lot more doors."

Father Bolduc prefers the Latin Mass because of the "unity aspect," which allows the church to have one universal language, he explained.

"There is less tendency of mistranslation," he explained. "Latin is more precise, that is why it is used in law and medicine. It is impossible to misconstrue," he noted. The many languages the Catholic Mass has been translated into, he added, lead to differing doctrinal aspects and interpretations.

"I am not opposed to the vernacular," said Father Bolduc. "I do think people should be allowed the Latin Mass if they want it."

"I side with Rome," he continued. "But here I have had the job of a troublemaker for 25 years. I believe it is in conjunction with the wishes of the Holy Father."

Program Will Help Preserve Brittle Books

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Endowment for the Humanities has received \$12.3 million in fiscal 1989 for a nationwide program to preserve brittle library materials.

Completed by the summer. Father
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