

Msgr. Richter to be honored Sunday

Clay Schuldt

NEW ULM - On July 26 Msgr. John Richter will officially retire from active ministry at Cathedral of the Holy Trinity.

A special celebration will be held in Msgr. Richter's honor from 11 to 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 23 at Leifeld Hall at the Cathedral.

Richter was ordained 53 years ago. His first five years as an ordained member of the church he served in the New Ulm parish. He was able to return to New Ulm 15 years ago. He served as Rector of the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity and superintendent of New Ulm Area Catholic Schools from 2002 to 2015. For the last two years he served as the Senior Associate with the Church.

"I have really been blessed in my time at New Ulm," Richter said. He lamented that in the last 15 years he saw a generational gap in those involved with the church, but believes New Ulm is a good community for Catholics. "There is a strong faith in many people here and in many young people."

In his last few days in New Ulm Richter has begun moving material from his office and discovered 53 years worth of homilies he has written. Richter admits he does not remember writing most of them, but he has picked up reoccurring themes, such as concern for the poor. In his homilies he frequently encouraged people to give to the poor and needy. It was a request those in the New Ulm parishes answered.

Richter said he was always proud of the New Ulm parishes' generosity towards the poor. Whenever the church would receive a donation through an estate or will 10 percent would go to charity. In 2005, the church made generous donations to communities effected by Hurricane Katrina.

The church could always count on members to donate to building projects. The building costs were always met before the work was done.

Richter will be leaving active ministry, but he will not retire completely. He has accepted a position as Chaplain at the Divine Providence Community Home Sleepy Eye. There he will continue the Lord's work with the residents of the Apartments and Nursing Home.

"I don't think it's retiring, its making a change to a different ministry," Richter said. He does not feel men of his profession ever really retire. "We want to die with our boots on."

In leaving the New Ulm ministry, Richter's most sincere hope was he made a positive impact on the community and the people in it. In accepting a new area of service Richter did not wish to say goodbye, but rather chose the German phrase "Auf wiedersehen" which translates to "until we meet again."

Richter which to assure his congregation he will meet them all again, whether it is along life's journey in this world or in the next life with God.

"It has been a joy to have served you for these past 15 years," Richter said in message to New Ulm. "It was my desire to help you get a little closer to God, and above all, to help you to get to Heaven."