

History of St. Joseph Parish continued.

1925 – 2003

Father Frank Goodman



One of the last important events to be held in the “old” church was the ordination of Father Frank Goodman. Father was only the tenth native Floridian to be ordained a priest and was the first priest from Polk County. Before deciding on a vocation, Father Goodman earned a degree in engineering at Notre Dame. He also served in WW II as an Army lieutenant. He was 35 at the time of his ordination in St. Joseph Church on February 1, 1959 surrounded by parents, family, and friends. Bishop Joseph P. Hurley ordained Father Goodman and received Father’s first blessing. Father Vincent Smith, who would later become a pastor of St. Joseph, was one of the priests attending. Father Goodman’s first solemn Mass was said at St. Joseph on February 8, 1959 at 11:30. Previously he had said Mass for the Women’s Guild on February 6. Father Goodman was a pastor of two churches in the newly created St. Petersburg Diocese. Father donated one of the side windows in the new church when it was built. After retirement, he returned to Lake Alfred and frequently offered morning Mass and served at other church functions both at St. Ann and at St. Joseph. A friend has



said of him, “Like the citrus trees he cherished so much, Father Frank lived to be of service to others.” He also loved old cars with powerful motors and loved to spend time tinkering with them. In 2002, Father, whose health had become frail, moved back to St. Petersburg to be closer to his earlier parishioners. After a series of strokes that paralyzed his left side, Father, remarked that one of the first things he was going to do in Heaven was to wave his left arm and announce, “See, it works!” He died October 9, 2002 in Anthony’s Hospital and was buried in the cemetery in Lake Alfred. He will be missed.