

TOP STORY, WEEK OF DECEMBER 9

Galesburg celebrates beatified

GALESBURG - For those who filled Corpus Christi Church here last Wednesday for a Mass of Thanksgiving recalling the recent beatification of Blessed Antonio Rosmini, founder of the Institute of Charity, it was the next best thing to being in Italy for the ceremonies.

"Many said it felt like they were a part of the beatification by taking part in the Mass," said Father William Miller, IC, pastor of Corpus Christi, who was among the concelebrants. Father Miller, who is provincial of Rosminians in the United States, had just returned from northern Italy where he and others affiliated with the religious community had taken part in the beatification ceremonies Nov. 18.

Corpus Christi Parish was the first parish in the diocese staffed by Rosminian priests and the community has a long history of parish and school involvement in Galesburg since Father Joseph Costa, IC, arrived here in 1877.

At the Galesburg Mass, Father Miller read the proclamation of beatification that had been announced 10 days earlier in Novara, Italy. A large framed portrait of Blessed Rosmini was hung near the sanctuary.

The homilist in Galesburg was Father Bruce King, IC, who offered a summary of Rosminian spirituality. Also concelebrating was Father Joseph Presley, IC, and serving as deacon was Deacon Ray Burton, who is an "ascribed" member of the community who - with his wife Henri - was also part of the trip to Italy.

Both Father Miller and Deacon Burton, of St. Joseph's Parish in Brimfield, told The Catholic Post that a memorable moment of the beatification Mass was when a relic of Blessed Rosmini was carried forward in procession. It marked the first time his relics could be publicly venerated.

The diocesan celebration continued on Nov. 30 with a vespers and Benediction service at Rosmini House in West Peoria. A slide show of photographs taken by Deacon Burton in Italy was shown at a reception following the time of prayer.