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Bishop to ordain three to the priesthood this Saturday

All three are natives of Poland who will now serve in
western Massachusetts



Staff report

SPRINGFIELD — Three men will pledge their lives in service to the Catholic Church in western Massachusetts as the Diocese of Springfield's newest priests this coming Saturday. Springfield Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell will preside at the 11 a.m. June 5 ordination ceremony at St. Michael's Cathedral in Springfield.

Transitional deacons Tomasz Jerzy Gorny, Tomasz Pawel Parzynski and Piotr Jacek Pawlus are Polish natives who have completed their ministerial studies in American seminaries and will serve, after their ordination, as priests in the Diocese of Springfield. Diocesan vocations director, Father Gary M. Dailey, has worked closely with these men on their training and preparation. He said this is a unique and historic situation for the Diocese of Springfield.

“These men have not only accepted a profound calling from God to serve and minister to the church, but in doing so they have left behind their native land, family and friends, along with all that would have been familiar to them, to provide their priestly ministry to our diocesan community. Now, that is inspiring.”

Rev. Mr. Tomasz Jerzy Gorny, 30, was born in Kozy, Poland. He is the son of Jan and the late Mirosztawa Gorny. He has a stepmother, Antonia Siatkowski, and two stepsisters. His hometown is only about 12 miles from Wadowice, the

birthplace of Pope John Paul II. An altar boy since age 7, he said one of his uncles, a priest, was a role model. He completed his priestly studies at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Mich.

Rev. Mr. Tomasz Pawel Parzynski, 28, is a native of Lublin, Poland and found his vocation through liturgical music. He is the son of Alina and the late Witold Parzynski, he has one brother. He began playing the organ when he was in high school. He worked as a religion teacher at St. Joseph Calasanz Primary School in Poznan, Poland, before attending St. John's Seminary in Brighton, Mass.

Rev. Mr. Piotr Jacek Pawlus, 28, was born in Radziechowy, Poland, where he was an altar server and lector at his home parish of St. Martin. He is the son of Bronislawa and the late Stanislaw Pawlus. He has two sisters and a brother. He first attended seminary in Krakow, Poland, before transferring to Sts. Cyril and Methodius Seminary.

All three were ordained as transitional deacons last August by Bishop McDonnell as the final step towards the priesthood which they will enter this Saturday.

Father Dailey stressed that although they come from Poland, they will serve the entire Catholic community. "They have not come to serve just our Polish ethnic parishes but in fact their formation work centered on ministry to the entire Catholic community," he said. He pointed out that Rev. Mr. Parzynski, while studying in Boston, returned weekends over the last year for an assignment at Holyoke's Immaculate Conception Parish, where he worked extensively with the Latino Catholic community.

At the end of Saturday's ordination ceremony the three men will receive their first assignments from Bishop McDonnell. They will begin those duties later this summer after trips back to Poland to celebrate their ordinations with their families and friends.