

Rev. Gurr Appointed To Serve Bethel Area

Rev. John E. Gurr, S.J., has been appointed by Bishop Gleeson as pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish in Bethel to succeed Rev. Neil Murphy, S.J. now assistant at Fairbanks.

The Bethel parish includes the entire Kuskokwim River Valley from Medfra-McGrath to Platinum. Rev. Robert Corrigan, S.J., is stationed at Aniak and assists with his Piper Super-Cub.

Father Gurr will take up his new duties June 1 and continue as Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese, with Rev. Thomas Gallagher, S.J., acting as assistant in Fairbanks.

Since coming to Fairbanks in June, 1965, Father Gurr has served as Vicar General of the Diocese, Superintendent of Schools and Rector of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart.

Last year he was acting pastor two week-ends of each month for the Hiway parish of Delta-Tok-Northway. He is a member of the Fairbanks Council of Churches and was recently appointed to the Midnight Sun Council Executive Board, Boy Scouts of America.

He has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Community Action Agency since its beginning three years ago and was Chairman of the Board for six months last year.

He is Chairman of Hillcrest, Incorporated, at present.

"I hope Fairbanks will continue to be good to the boys at Hillcrest. Ty Potts and his staff are doing a fine job there and it is sad that more boys cannot be



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accepted. There is a great need for this service and as the Home begins its third year some thought must be given to expansion of facilities. Other cities and towns in Alaska, of course, benefit from Hillcrest and help it along."

Rev. Gurr was born in North Yakima, Washington, February 12, 1913 and came to Douglas, Alaska, aged 10 months when his father became the first manager of the newly established First Territorial Bank of Alaska in that mining city.

He attended St. Ann's schools in Douglas and Juneau, where his father was City Clerk 1921-1923, and public schools in Wrangell. He was graduated from Gonzaga High School in Spokane in 1930 after two years of boarding school there.