

Fr. Murphy Transfers to Bethel; Fr. Llorente From Nome to Here

Fr. Neil K. Murphy, S. J., assistant pastor, terminated eight years of service in Fairbanks last week at the Immaculate Conception parish to become pastor of the Immaculate Conception parish in Bethel, Alaska and Jesuit Mission Superior of the Bethel district.

He will be assisted there by Fr. John J. Wood, S.J., who will care by plane, boat and dogteam for the churches along the Kuskokwim between Bethel and McGrath. Fr. Segundo Llorente, S.J., present pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Nome will succeed Fr. Murphy here. Fr. Paul B. Mueller, S.J., will go from Bethel to succeed Fr. Llorente in Nome.

Fr. Murphy came to Alaska in September of 1947, spent two months at Nulato and nine years at Nome before coming to Fairbanks. He was born in Butte, Montana and educated at the Irish Christian Brothers high school there.

After two years at Carroll College, Helena, Montana, he entered the Society of Jesus at Sheridan, Oregon, August 7, 1931. He was ordained in San Francisco June 16, 1945 after completing theological studies at Alma College, Los Gatos, California.

Fr. Segundo Llorente has spent 31 of his 60 years in Alaska, most of them at Alakanuk at the south mouth of the Yukon among the Eskimos of the Delta area.

Born in Spain, he came to America as a Jesuit scholastic assigned to the Alaska Missions.

After he studied English at Gonzaga University, Spokane, during the 1930-31 school year he made his theological studies at St. Mary's College, Kansas where he was ordainer a priest in 1934.

Following a year of study at Santa Clara University, he headed north

for the Yukon Delta, later becoming an American citizen. He celebrated his Silver Jubilee as a priest June 24, 1959.

In 1960, the people of District 24 on the Lower Yukon wrote in his name on the ballot for state representative. He won 210 to 185 from two other contestants and took his oath of office in the Alaska State House of Representative in the United States serving on the Health, Welfare and Education Committees in the House.

His hobby of "graphology" has made him known to many.

Fr. Llorente has written an number of books on the Alaska Missions which have made him quite famous in Spanish-speaking countries. In May, 1963, he returned to Spain for a year on lecture tour and visits to Mission centers there.

He has been pastor of St. Joseph's parish, Nome, since June 15, 1964, spending two months of the year with his people on Little Diomed Island and taking turns with his assistant, Fr. Frank Ready, now pastor of Nenana, in caring for Teller, Tin City and Port Clarence.

He is expected in Fairbanks about October 15.