



**Rev. Dennis W. Morrow**, in addition to his current role as pastor of SS. Peter and Paul Parish, Grand Rapids and other diocesan responsibilities, is appointed pastor of St. James Parish, Grand Rapids.



**Rev. Thomas P. Page**, presently pastor of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception and St. Jean Baptiste Parish, Muskegon to pastor of St. Jude Parish, Grand Rapids, with continuing responsibility as associate vicar for clergy.



**Rev. Mark E. Peacock**, currently associate pastor at St. Jude Parish, Grand Rapids to pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Parnell.



**Rev. Peter C. Schafer**, currently administrator at the Basilica of St. Adalbert, Grand Rapids to pastor of St. Bartholomew, Newaygo and Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission, Grant.

Photo not available

**Rev. Ronald F. Schneider**, presently pastor of St. Gregory Parish, Hart to pastor of St. Ann Parish, Baldwin and St. Ignatius Mission, Luther.



**Rev. Thomas G. Simons**, presently pastor of St. Francis de Sales, Norton Shores to pastor of Holy Trinity Parish, Comstock Park.



**Rev. R. Louis Stasker**, presently the pastor of St. Robert of Newminster Parish, Ada to pastor of the Basilica of St. Adalbert, Grand Rapids, in addition to continuing responsibilities as pastor/president of the Grand Rapids Catholic Secondary Schools.



**Rev. Leonard A. Sudlik**, presently pastor of St. Mary Parish, Spring Lake to pastor of St. Robert of Newminster Parish, Ada.



**Rev. Dung Anton Tran**, currently pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Weare and St. Vincent Mission, Pentwater to pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Norton Shores.



# Love is not pompous or inflated

>> **Msgr. Gaspar F. Ancona** is a senior priest of the Diocese of Grand Rapids

**S**t. Paul's explanation that love "is not pompous, it is not inflated" reminds me of the huge inflated figures in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. These gigantic balloons based on characters from popular comics or movies are guided along the parade route by dozens of strong wires. They float several stories high over the crowds, to the amazement and delight of the thousands who line the streets and the millions watching on television. Sometimes, however, high winds have caused havoc, and the balloons have crashed down into lamp posts and hurt people nearby.

When real people get pompous and inflated, we tend to act just like big, inflated comic caricatures. We may think we're floating high over the heads of an admiring crowd, but, more often than not, we crash into whatever and whoever is nearby. In the process, we do damage to our neighbor and ourselves.

St. Paul has observed that genuine love cannot co-exist with an overblown and overbearing spirit. If we think we need to impress others and always be "on parade" for their admiration, it's not real love that is filling us. It may instead be a need for attention. It's more a sign of desperation than it is of self-confidence.

Self-inflation not only causes us to behave erratically towards our neighbor, but also leads us adrift and afar from our God. In both testaments of the sacred Scriptures, putting God at the center of human life brings everything else into harmony and fulfillment. Putting ourselves at the center of all life's striving brings everything into conflict and chaos.

There is also a valid and important way of translating the apostle's advice into a value that would guide public policy in faith communities today, as well as in civic communities. On all levels, personal and societal, what is at stake is how we value others. Valuing one another means that, regardless of how powerful we may be, we acknowledge and respect the rights of others.

Being pompous or inflated doesn't clear the way for a healthy interchange on any level.

last word