

New Priest Assists At St. Philip Church

Entering his second week of a summer assignment as assistant parish priest at St. Philip Catholic church is The Rev. Ronald J. Loehner, ordained June 4.

Father Loehner is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Loehner of Jackson. He was born Feb. 25, 1940, attended Helmer school in Jackson as well as St. Mary Grade and High Schools, graduating in 1958.

As a youth Father Loehner won the American Legion "I Speak for Democracy" regional forensics meet in 1957 and received an award for outstanding achievement in debate in 1958. He received a B.A. from Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit, in 1962 and since then has attended St. John's Provincial Seminary, Plymouth.

He attended summer sessions in 1960 at Jackson Junior College, traveled to Mexico in 1961 as counselor for the Youth for Understanding program, returning to Mexico for varying periods in 1962 through 1964, teaching Christian doctrine and English in a mountain village in



Fr. Ronald J.
Loehner

Guerrero state and in a Mexico City slum.

Father Loehner has studied Spanish at the North American Institute of Cultural Interchange in Mexico City, and worked on his church's migrant apostolate in St. Joseph County, where he helped Fathers Kenneth Favier and William Limbert organize one of the first educational programs for Mexican nationals and the children of American migrant families.

A year ago he received the diaconate and was assigned to parish work at St. Joseph's church, Jackson. There under the direction of Fathers Adolph M. Oser, one-time Battle Creek resident, and Darius W. Wyzynski, he taught at Jackson's city-wide Bible School.

Since last October Father Loehner has served the people of St. Mary parish, Marshall, as deacon assistant to Father Elmer Grogan, and after Father Grogan's death, to Father Robert G. Bradra, administrator. In Marshall he taught in the parish school and was active in the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, the Christian Family movement and the Cursillo movement.

He celebrated his first Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving in his home parish, St. Mary, Jackson, June 5.