

Athens community, he also pastored a parish. "We had all the kids coming to church in those days. It was like a dream. They just poured down the hill."

At other times he served in more rural parishes in the diocese, driving to them for the weekend from Athens. "I always loved going out to the country parishes. Life is much more simple." Plus, he added, the devoutness of the people helped his faith.

Father Cronin also served as a school principal at St. Mary School, Marietta, and a founding principal for the now closed Seton Central High School, Lafferty.

He served St. Mary Church, Marietta, as an associate pastor, too.

When the pastor of St. Mary's, Shadyside, died, Father Cronin offered to serve the parish, a proposition that caused him to find yet another mission, he said, caring for the elderly and sick.

However, a priest, he reminded, has multiple jobs.

"It's so wonderful being a priest, very rewarding. In everything you do, you are bringing the Lord to the people."

Bishop R. Daniel Conlon said, "It was very generous, even courageous, for Father Cronin to take up parish work after so many years as a university professor.

"I know he loved the people at Shadyside and Powhatan Point."

In retirement, Father Cronin will reside in an apartment in Shadyside. He has rented one at the top of a hill.

Reminding that he is a very youthful 76-year-old – he still jogs – he said that after retirement he will take trips to visit with family, which is scattered throughout the United States, and old friends in Athens, as well as assist his fellow priests.

There will be plenty to do, wherever he is, he speculated, until he "tumbles into the grave. It's a very happy life."

Bishop Conlon's Schedule

August

- 11 Educational Leaders' Conference, Our Lady of Mercy Church, Lowell, 8:15 a.m.
Spanish Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Pomeroy, 7 p.m.
- 12 Grenada Mission benefit dinner, Cincinnati, 5 p.m.
- 21-23 Region VI bishops' gathering, Detroit
- 24 Mass, Oath of Fidelity, Franciscan University of Steubenville, 11:30 a.m.
- 24-26 Boy Scout retreat, Carlisle

Background checks are planned for five locales

STEUBENVILLE — Anyone who works with youth in the Diocese of Steubenville must have a background check prior to beginning work, Msgr. Kurt H. Kemo, vicar general, reminded.

To facilitate the process, Martin B. Thompson, director of information and technology, will conduct background checks through electronic means from 4-7 p.m., at St. Benedict School, Cambridge, Aug. 21; St. Mary School, Marietta, Aug. 22; St. Joseph Central High School, Ironton, Aug. 23; Catholic Central High School, Steubenville, Aug. 28; and St. John Central (Grade) School, Bellaire, Aug. 29.

Those getting a WebCheck must have been a resident of the state of Ohio for the past five years and present a valid driver's license. Cost is \$15.

WebChecks also are conducted at local police and sheriff's offices and at the chancery through the Office of Education, (740) 282-3631, extension 333.