

## *Honored*

Rev. Francis O'Connor, administrator of St. Patrick's Church in the Albany Center City Cluster, received the Giles Award from the Rev. Maurice Drown of Trinity United Methodist Church in Albany Feb 13. Father O'Connor was honored by the Capital Area Council of Churches for being "a faithful, devoted pastor who practices his ministry in an ecumenical context." (Tom Bessette photo)

# Albany parish cited for inner-city work

Rev. Frank O'Connor, administrator of the parish which recently received an achievement award from the Albany Diocesan Peace and Justice Commission, thanked God for placing St. Patrick's, Albany, "in a position to be in relationship with the poor" in the urban parish community.

Bishop Howard J. Hubbard gave out the annual award at a ceremony in the Pastoral Center in Albany. Also honored was Rev. John Spain, MM (see separate article).

Along with Our Lady of Angels, St. John's/St. Ann's, St. John's Lutheran Church, and Albany Catholic Family and Community Services, St. Patrick's operates a downtown outreach center that includes a food pantry, clothing store and soup kitchen. On Sundays, St. Patrick's parishioners work with members of Temple Beth Emeth, Albany, to offer a weekend soup kitchen. In addition, the parish recently opened its doors to house diocesan Hispanic

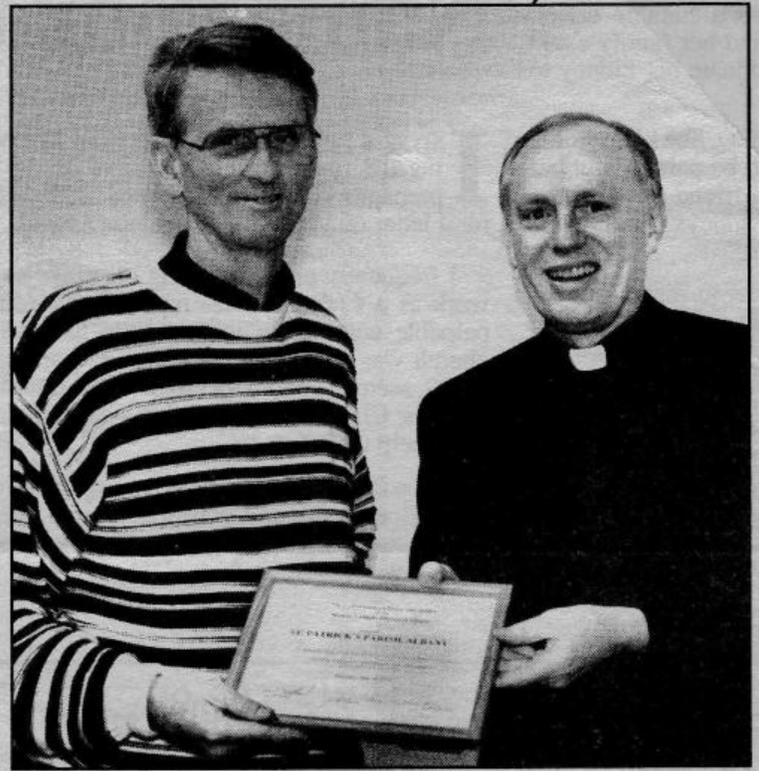
Outreach Services.

In announcing the award, Bishop Hubbard credited Father O'Connor for his "collaborative leadership style" that "empowers the laity" to assume their role as ministers in the Church.

Among those present to accept the award were Sister Catherine Kruegler, CSJ, minister of student and family faith formation; Pat Barr of the parish Christian Concern Committee; and parishioner Ed Rea.

Reflecting on the Gospel readings which highlighted the Apostles' outreach to gentiles, Father O'Connor said: "It is always that way with the Gospel. It can't be contained; it will go out to others."

He called St. Patrick's outreach a Gospel ministry that builds a bridge to its surrounding community — Catholics and non-Catholics alike. "In turn, we are evangelized by the people we work with, as we try to evangelize them." (LU)



## Parish recognized

Bishop Hubbard presents a citation to Father O'Connor which recognized his parish's efforts. (John R. Dillon photos)