



Your local news source ::
Select a community or newspaper »

Select a community [dropdown] [GO]

Select a [dropdown]

CENTERSTAGE GREEN GUIDE Chicago's city guide to greener living: DRINK Redd your ir on the

Daily Southtown
dailysouthtown.com Member of the Sun-Times News Group

72°F
Sunny
Weather • Traffic

Home | News | Sports | Business | Entertainment | Classifieds | Lifestyles | Ebert | Search | A

NEWS :: [PRINTER FRIENDLY »](#) [EMAIL ARTICLE »](#) [BOOKMARK](#)

- News
- [Archive](#)
- [USA Weekend](#)
- [Local Digest](#)
- [Eye on Harvey](#)
- [Insight](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Opinion](#)
- [Weather](#)
- Columnists
- [Andrew Greeley](#)
- [Courtney Greve](#)
- [Allison Hantschel](#)
- [Phil Kadner](#)
- [Marlene Lang](#)
- [Kristen McQueary](#)
- [Rich Miller](#)
- [Dennis Robaugh](#)

'Our Favre who art in heaven'

Southeast Side pastor moving to Southwest Side speaks two languages, neither is Bear

June 30, 2007

By **Eloise Marie Valadez** Staff writer

The Rev. Alfredo Gundrum is passionate about spreading the faith, helping people in need and cheering for the Green Bay Packers.

"Almost everyone knows that I'm a Packers fan because I like to put on green-and-gold vestments, and I tell them that God is praying for the Packers, especially when they play the Chicago Bears," Gundrum said, laughing.

Gundrum, 65, pastor of St. Kevin Church on Chicago's Southeast Side, will soon have another flock to shepherd and introduce to his favorite football team when he becomes associate pastor at St. Clare of Montefalco Church on the Southwest Side in early July.

After 13 years at St. Kevin, Gundrum said he will miss the small parish in the South Deering community where he's developed a strong bond with both church and community members.

"I've enjoyed working here, where I found a very gifted people who participate and have a lively spirit," Gundrum said.

His last mass at St. Kevin was June 24 and featured an outdoor worship service and reception. During the mass, Ald. John Pope (10th) presented Gundrum with a special proclamation and greeting from Mayor Richard Daley in honor of all Gundrum's done for the community.

A going-away party, attended by more than 100 people, was held June 16. Current and former parishioners attended, and guests took the



VIDEO ::

- AF
- Tfr
- SCS

TOP STO

NEWS
[Longtime P: retires](#)

ing In

[RogerEbert.com :: Movies & more](#)

[Obituaries ::](#)

[Submissions ::](#)

[Yellow Pages ::](#)

CENTERSTAGE

[Web only :: Video • TV Listings](#)

podium to praise Gundrum for his strong spiritual example, willingness to help others and his friendship and sense of humor.

Gundrum said his mission has long been to empower laity. And he's more than satisfied with how the people of the St. Kevin community have grown spiritually.

"I've seen the power of the laity, ... especially about their lives," he said. "And we've had many people empowered to take on different ministries. ... Not that I have that many talents, but I've discovered a lot of other people who have them, so they're able to do a lot of things. This has been a special parish that way."

He said the laity is just as significant in the Catholic Church as priests and other church leaders.

"Priesthood is definitely important, but we're part of the community. I don't think we're above the community. The more we realize that, the more humble we are in recognizing the gifts of others" he said.

With Gundrum's influence, the St. Kevin faithful have become involved in a variety of programs and activities through the years. He helped bring the retreat and faith-strengthening program, "Christ Renews His Parish," to St. Kevin five years ago.

"Here at St. Kevin's, it's a bilingual retreat, so there is a good exchange between the English and Spanish cultures. I think it's brought the parish together more," Gundrum said.

He has also established a bereavement group at the church and encouraged such activities as aerobics, yoga and line-dancing classes; a food pantry; senior classes; Al-Anon support groups; and educational and job-training opportunities.

Gundrum said he's thankful to have worked with the Rev. John Baptist Drabo, a fellow priest at St. Kevin.

Community and civic issues also are important to Gundrum. He's participated in immigration marches and worked with groups that promote healthy race relations and gang intervention.

Gundrum is fluent in Spanish, which served him well with St. Kevin's large Hispanic population and will do so at St. Clare, where the parish also is predominantly Hispanic.

Gundrum grew up in Allenton, Wis. He's a graduate of St. Lawrence Seminary High School Rensselaer, Ind. He entered the novitiate in 1960 and was ordained a Capuchin Franciscan.

He was drawn to the religious life as a youngster.

"I grew up right across the street from a church, and I liked what I saw in the example of the priest," he said.

Gundrum served for 21 years in Nicaragua, which was going through a civil war for about 10 years.

"I was at a church on the northern border of Honduras and went through 10 years of war that was pretty alive," he said.

BUSINESS
MRI center g
tube, into fa

SPORTS
'O' no: Hom
sour note

ENTERTAIN
Jimmy Buff
Southland c

LIFESTYLE!
Invasive sp
havoc

Gundrum said leaving St. Kevin is difficult, but he welcomes his new post at St. Clare when Sullivan.

"It's sad to leave, but it's a change that's probably good for people here (St. Kevin) and for

*Eloise Marie Valadez may be reached at
evaladez@dailysouthtown.com
or (708) 633-5974.*

Ads by Google

Chicago Condos

Chicago's UltimateHome Search
www.atproperties.com

Brasserie JO

If you can't make it to Paris,Chicago's only authentic Brasserie
www.brasseriejo.com

IL Outdoor Wedding Chapel

A Unique and Unforgettable CeremonyAt Our Scenic Outdoor Chapel Garden
WaysideChapelPalos.com

Quality Skylight Provider

Opening the windows of choicellinois Top Window Manufacturer
FakroUsa.com

Military Clearance Jobs

Find Security Clearance Jobs inChicago, IL. Register Online Today
www.ClearanceJobs.com

dailysouthtown.com: [Feedback](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Advertise With Us](#) | [Media Kit](#) | [Make i](#)
Daily Southtown: [Subscribe](#) | [Online Photo Store](#) | [Keepsakes](#)
Affiliates: [RogerEbert.com](#) | [SearchChicago - Autos](#) | [SearchChicago - Homes](#) | [SearchChicago - Jobs](#) | [NeighborhoodC](#)



© Copyright 2007 Sun-Times News Group | [Terms of Use](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)