

Cardinal names 1st Island monsignor in 5 years

By ALICE LESCH

The Rev. John Servodidio, a Staten Island priest and a part-time chaplain at the South Beach Psychiatric Center, was named a monsignor last week by Cardinal Terence Cooke.

He is the first Staten Island priest to be named a monsignor since the appointment of the Rev. John Gordon, of St. Joseph's and St. Thomas' Parish, Rossville, in 1978.

Msgr. Servodidio was awarded the title partly because "he's involved very much in the Staten Island community," said the Rev. Edwin O'Brien, director of public communications for the Archdiocese of New York.

"He's had great influence in caring for Catholic Charities concerns and young people," Father O'Brien said. Msgr. Servodidio's work has helped not only Staten Island, he said, but the whole archdiocese.

Being named a monsignor is a "sign of honor and recognition. It's an honorable title and office. Historically, it's a sign of special attachment to the Holy Father," Father O'Brien said, indicated outwardly by special vestments. The appointment of monsignor is approved by the pope.

Msgr. Servodidio spent 14 months in the army, serving in the Philippines and advancing to the post of staff sergeant. He was ordained in 1954, after graduating from St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y. and attending Fordham University.

On the Island, he served as chaplain at the Arthur Kill Cor-

rectional Facility, the Staten Island Developmental Center, and at several hospitals and nursing homes.

The recipient of many awards and honors, Father Servodidio also holds several college degrees, among them a master's in social work from Fordham University and a master's in criminal justice from C.W. Post in

Long Island. He has been a priest for 29 years.

He serves as director of Family and Community Services for the New York archdiocese. He is also a member of the St. Vincent's Medical Center Board of Directors, the Staten Island Developmental Center Board of Visitors and is active in a number of community groups.

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