

# DPC passes diocesan budget, elects executive committee

By Teresa A. Parsons

Elections, diocesan budget cuts and the welcoming of new members were high on the agenda during last Saturday's Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) meeting at St. Helen's Church in Gates.

New executive committee members were chosen by unanimous acclamation to fill seven open positions. New committee members for next year are: Ronald E. Jodoin, Good Shepherd; Carolyn E. Schulte, St. Philip Neri; Lu Ann Irwin, St. Michael's, Lyons; Karl V. Denninger, Sacred Heart, Rochester; Gloria Ulterino, Good Shepherd; Eileen O'Neill, St. Mary's, Canandaigua; and Jeanne M. Puceta, St. Leo's, Hilton.

Jodoin was also chosen by unanimous acclamation to serve as DPC chairman for the next year, and Carolyn Schulte was elected vice chairwoman.

Also during Saturday's meetings, members of the Ministerial Review Committee (MRC), a subcommittee of the DPC, presented their recommendations on the diocesan budget. Although they approved the budget as written, Ron Keller, chairman of the MRC, decried the extent of the cuts mandated by the Thanks Giving Appeal shortfall.

"Things we fought like bandits to get inserted in the budget are being torn out," he lamented. "I feel like crying when I look at this budget."

Among the hard-won victories pointed out by Keller, who has served the diocese for 10 years, were a Hispanic outreach to the Geneva/Newark area, a diocesan auditor for parishes and a young adult ministry coordinator.

"I feel terrible that all of us did not get up when the TGA fell short and say in one loud voice 'What a tragedy!'" he added. "The budget is valid, and it deserves the support of the people of the diocese."

Without opposition, the DPC voted to accept the budget and the MRC's concerns as written.

Although he acknowledged that the extent of this year's cuts understandably slowed the budgeting process, Keller reiterated the need for changes in the budget's time line. This year, the MRC had less than a full month to review the proposed diocesan budget. "It's got to be backed up about six weeks if we're going to do more than provide

a rubber stamp," he said. "That's got to be addressed. If it's not, one has to question whether there's any value to having an MRC."

Speaking for the MRC, Keller commended several departments and individuals, including Father Ray Fleming of St. Mary's Church for the Deaf and the Division of Urban Services for improving their budget practices.

Keller also called for a comprehensive review of the progress and status of the diocesan development office, which was established two years ago. "I would see that as a key issue for the DPC," he said. "You should be asking to receive some kind of report."

Saturday's meeting was the first for 11 new DPC members and the last for three departing members.

New members are: North Region, Douglas Eckert and Jay Travers; Northwest Region, Florence Tripi; Southeast Region, Margaret Joynt; Southwest Region, William Spohn and Dennis DuPree; Chemung, Barbara Lewis; Steuben, Thomas Hart and John Herriman; and Yates, Doris Place.

Departing members were recognized for their service during completed terms.

Also elected at last week's meeting was a new member of the Council of Conciliation. DPC campus representative Jim Gillette, a member of the campus community at SUNY Brockport and a trained mediator, was selected from a field of three candidates. The Council of Conciliation negotiates resolu-

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## Diocesan Appointments



Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following diocesan appointment, effective June 24:

**Father Charles J. Latus**, from sabbatical, Institute of Continuing Theological Education, North American College, Rome, Italy, to pastor, St. Catherine's, Mendon.

## SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Acts 7:55-60; Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20; John 17:20-26

We have journeyed through the Easter season to a point at which we witness the overwhelming power of God. Such a power can compel a Stephen to shout in praise and glory of God as he is being stoned to death. Jesus, the Son of God, can summarize his life as one of giving totally: "...I living in them; you living in me — that their unity may be complete." Such a profound belief in the Alpha and Omega, the root and offspring of David, the Morning Star: "...let all who desire it accept the gift of life-giving water." It is a Sun-



day of true rejoicing in the reconciling activity which has begun.

This Sunday's liturgy should sing with joy! It is a day for sprinkling with water; singing joyous glorias, reflection on the work which is already being done in the Church. One may wish to renew baptismal promises, install liturgical ministers, or give neophytes a chance to witness their joy at being counted among the faithful. Even though the Easter season nears its end, it still remains vibrant, a wellspring for commitment, reconciliation and love.

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Bishop Matthew H. Clark

# Along the Way

## SERIES ON CHURCH

It will be no surprise to readers of the Courier-Journal or of the local press that the question of Father Charles Curran and his ongoing dialogue with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has generated considerable interest in our diocese and across the nation.

My own statement (Courier-Journal, March 12) — which urged a compromise that would allow Father Curran to continue as a Catholic theologian — drew as heavy a volume of correspondence as anything I have done in seven years as a bishop, with the possible exception of "Fire in the Thornbush."

To date, according to our records, we have received about 400 pieces of mail on the subject. The vast majority of them are from individual correspondents; the remainder came from professional organizations, faculties and from individuals signing petitions. Of the 400 responses, approximately 350 have been in support of my statement, and the remainder against it. I am surprised at those numbers, because my experience is that people are more inclined to write of their disagreement than of their agreement on controversial matters.

While I'd be among the first to say that the issues at hand, whether substantive or procedural, are not settled without a great deal of thought — and surely not by a quick show of hands — I must also say that I am pleased that so many wrote in support of the positions I took in my statement.

Those positions, simply put, were the expression of my respect for Father Curran as a priest and a theologian; my contention, widely upheld in the theological community, that Father Curran is deeply respected both personally and professionally by the members of that community; and my statement that he is regarded as a centrist in his theological views.

I went on to ask why — given his centrist position and the esteem in which he is held in the theological community — Father Curran was singled out for the kind of attention he has received from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the

Faith. I expressed some concern about this because of the damaging effect I believe it could have on the theological community if he were, in any way, to be disqualified as a Catholic theologian.

Finally, I stated my opinion that such matters are more fruitfully handled first at the local level — diocesan and/or national — and failing resolution at that level, by the Holy See.

My statement was intended to be pastoral in nature, in that it concerned itself with such matters as the fairness of the procedures employed to study Father Curran's work and the effect a negative judgment about him would have on theological study in our nation. Nowhere in my statement did I comment about the positions, Father Curran takes about specific questions in moral theology.

Because I did not include such commentary, several correspondents concluded that I thereby had endorsed the specific moral positions of Father Curran and had denied the teachings of the ordinary magisterium of the Church.

Let me say for the record that I do accept and affirm the teaching office of the Church and that I do accept and affirm all that is taught by the ordinary magisterium of the Church.

Having said that, let me add that such an affirmation needs to be understood against the background of the moral teaching of the Church as it has developed over the centuries. To convey to you my impression that all moral matters have been taught in the same way in all places and in all ages of the Church would be a disservice to the truth and a denial of our need to study continually and to pray daily for the guidance of the Spirit in our desire to make Christ-centered moral decisions.

The recent extraordinary synod called for a renewal of our understanding of the Church. In view of that recommendation — and in light of the theme relative to the Church contained in your letters — I shall devote several future columns to our understanding of the contemporary Church. In the meantime, peace to all.

## Mercy Sister Catherine Kanick to profess vows

Sister Catherine M. Kanick will make her first profession of vows as a Sister of Mercy on Saturday, May 10, at 7 p.m. during a Eucharistic liturgy in the motherhouse chapel, 1437 Blossom Road. Her theme for the celebration will be "Celebrate in thanksgiving the mercy of our God."



The daughter of Frank L. Kanick of

Belfast, N.Y., Sister Catherine earned an associate's degree in 1956 from Erie County Technical Institute School of Dental Hygiene in Buffalo. Before entering the Mercy congregation in 1982, she worked for 20 years as a dental hygienist.

Father John Mulligan will preside at the liturgy and Sister Jean Marie Kearsé superior general of the Sisters of Mercy, will receive the vows in the name of the congregation.

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