

Social Ministry honors four activists at annual dinner

Saturday, October 11, was a special evening for everyone involved with the diocesan Division of Social Ministry, but was especially so for four well-known activists in that arena.

The evening marked the diocesan division's first annual dinner since social ministries within the diocese were reorganized in 1985.

It was also the occasion for divisional staff and board members to inaugurate the Bradley-Staub award and present it to three recipients who have made major contributions to social ministries within the diocese.

In addition, the Oct. 11 dinner closed an era with the presentation of the final St. Vincent de Paul Award of the Social Ministry Board of Directors. The surprised recipient — who was reported to have muttered a vaguely reproachful "You guys" when his name was called — was the evening's presenter, Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

For many years, the St. Vincent de Paul Award has been awarded by Catholic Charities in honor of St. Vincent, who with St. Louise de Marillac, organized the charities movement in Paris during the 16th century.

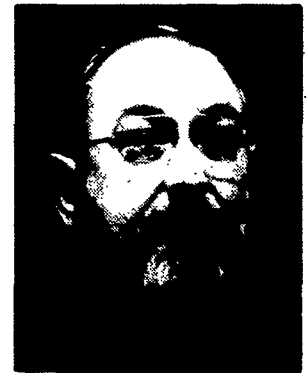
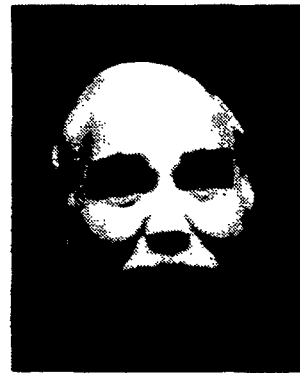
In presenting the award to Bishop Clark, William Wynne, president of the diocesan social ministry board, cited a number of activities with which the bishop has been involved since coming to Rochester. Among his achievements listed were:

- approving the implementation of "Catholic Charities of the Future," which became the basis for the development of regional offices and the final structure of the Division of Social Ministry;
- encouraging the continued relationship between the diocese of Tabasco, Mexico, and Rochester;
- giving personal attention to the pastoral care of jail and prison inmates;
- leading the Rochester delegation to Albany in March of 1980 and 1981 to advocate adequate wages for farm workers, oppose Medicaid funding for abortion, oppose capital punishment and advocate increases in public-assistance grants for poor families;



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal
'YOU GUYS' — Bishop Matthew H. Clark accepts the St. Vincent de Paul Award.

- supporting efforts to encourage New York state to accept non-ordained ministers as chaplains in state institutions;
- authorizing in 1980 diocesan participation in the ecumenical Cuban-Haitian Coalition for the resettlement of Cuban and Haitian refugees, and for supporting Social Ministry's involvement on the national level to advocate changes in immigration policy;
- taking part in consultation and implementation of the peace pastoral — conducting public hearings to gather input and submitting amendments to its three drafts, including a major amendment regarding a better understanding of the Christian tradition on pacifism;
- giving the keynote speech at the Sampson State Park rally and educating parishioners throughout the diocese on his reasons for doing so;
- supporting the foundation of St. Mary's Church of the Deaf;
- appointing a panel to work with him in



BRADLEY-STAUB WINNERS — Adele Carlson, Father Neil Miller and Father George Wiant

reviewing the upcoming economic pastoral, conducting forums to allow all members of the diocese to offer their perspectives on the pastoral and accepting an NCCB appointment to serve on the pastoral's implementation committee;

● showing interest in the different aspects of the concerns of women in the Church and society by writing his pastoral letter "Fire in the Thornbush," appointing a diocesan task force to assist in developing ways of implementing his pastoral, and participating on the committee writing the national pastoral letter "On the Concerns of Women in the Church."

The Bradley-Staub award is named in honor of two individuals who changed the worlds in which they lived. Sister Ann William Bradley served as president of St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester from 1978 to 1984 and as chairwoman of the board from 1984 until her death later that year.

When some people proposed that St. Mary's be moved to the suburbs, Sister Ann William believed otherwise and convinced those people that the mission of St. Mary's is to serve the poor and the sick through its commitment to city neighborhoods.

Father Jacob Staub's name and spirit figure largely in the early history of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester. In 1912, he became vice president of the newly formed Catholic Charity Guild, which gave jobs to the unemployed. He was impatient

with timidity and red tape, but was a true champion of social justice.

Recipients of the first Bradley-Staub awards were Adele Carlson, Father Neil Miller and Father George Wiant. Each of them received plaques bearing engraved copies of their award letters.

Since 1981, Carlson has served as director of the Action Center for the Disabled of the Genesee Valley Office of Social Ministry. Her award letter cited her efforts to support and enable disabled people, her respect for the sacredness of human life and her advocacy for the rights of disabled people.

Father Miller received his award in recognition of achievements during his tenure as director of the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry. He was credited for creating counseling services, community housing projects for the mentally ill and a variety of emergency-service programs. He was also recognized for initiating study on such issues as the peace movement, the rights of the unborn, economic justice and abolishment of the death penalty.

Father Wiant, who was the first diocesan staff person assigned to work in social ministry in the Finger Lakes region, was honored for his numerous contributions — developing a program of service and advocacy for migrant farm workers in Wayne County, directing the Office of Human Development in Rochester, and serving as vice president of the board of directors of the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry.

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