

Trio

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sante from the church, but she continued to read the Bible and spiritual works. Her own upbringing included daily Mass and her mother's example of devotion to the church. When Piersante returned to church and first saw a woman on the altar. "It turned my life around," she said.

Piersante subsequently remarried, and she and her husband discovered Corpus Christi Parish in Rochester. The two plunged into parish activities, including the supper and shelter programs. "That's when I realized I wanted to do more," she said.

At a parish "visioning retreat," Piersante shared her idea of starting a place for the homeless where they could find the help they needed to get off the streets. With a group of people who shared a similar dream, she helped create Dimitri House, which houses Corpus Christi's shelter program. The Piersantes sold their home and moved into the house as live-in staff members in 1985.

Piersante attributed her activism and her understanding of service to her mother and grandmother, and to many of the women she has met through the church. "I'm just a very small part of all the other women in our life," she said.

Lawrence, likewise, said her achievements were inspired by the example provided by her mother. A widow trying to raise four children in a small town near New York City, Lawrence's mother emphasized the importance of education to her children. Lawrence went to Antioch College then, in 1949, to the University of Rochester's School of Medicine and Dentistry, where she became one of the few women in the country studying medicine.

A woman medical student — and later doctor — was such a novelty in the early 1950s that Lawrence found herself assigned to night call in hospitals that had no rest areas for women. During those shifts, she frequently had to spend the nights sitting and napping on chairs. At the time, Lawrence said, "The point ... was not to fight for rights, but to prove that women could do a good job."

In the years since, Lawrence has proven

that she could do a good job, writing books and articles, teaching at the University of Rochester and founding the Poison Control Center of Rochester. She also married and raised nine children. In addition, she has been active in her parish, serving on St. Thomas More's parish council — including a term as president — and on the parish school's parents association. She has contributed to the diocesan church, serving as a consultant to Bishops Joseph Hogan and Matthew Clark on questions of medical ethics and sex education.

Lawrence remains convinced of the importance of education for women, pointing to the medical world as an example of what can happen. In the decades since she was a rarity among medical students, women have achieved equality in the medical profession. "One of my particular feelings about women and their role in modern life is that they need the same opportunities as men so they can close the gap," she said.

The Women's Scholarship Fund, Lawrence said, will help women gain access to the theological training they need to assume even more responsibility and equality in the church. "It doesn't seem to me that a loving God planned to have two classes of citizenship (in the church)," she said. "It appears to me that women are different but equal, and should be treated as different but equal in the church as well."

Piersante, in fact, attributes her continued involvement in the church and in ministry to women. "If it weren't for women in the church and their counseling, I wouldn't be here today," she said.

In the future, Piersante said she would like to see women priests. "I believe that when someone has a gift, it should not make any difference whether they're a female or a male," she said.

Although Jaskot said she is not in favor of women priests, she too applauded the idea of more education for women and of the Women's Scholarship Fund. With the growing shortage of priests, she said, the church needs "women to preach to help others to live a better life. I would rather see male priests, but we should be very happy to have somebody to help others along."

As more women have taken on leadership positions in the church, Lawrence said, they have shown that they can fill roles the church once reserved for men. This will become even more important as the number of priests declines, she said.

But, women need to be preparing now for future leadership positions, Lawrence cautioned.

"Women out there need to be ready, trained and educated to provide the service," Lawrence said. "But if we're still in the corner fingering our beads, other solutions will be found."

Father Trovato

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Crombach said that he had observed signs of Father Trovato's spirituality on many occasions. "Whenever I've seen him at Mass or any other religious occasion, I've seen how totally wrapped up he gets," he said. "When he says Mass, it's not just a routine thing. His whole being seems caught up in it."

Buttino pointed out that Father Trovato gave the same impression of complete attention when talking to others. "You know he just listens to you with his whole heart," he said. "There's not a lot of people who do that."

Another aspect of Father Trovato receives less attention, yet perhaps reveals much about the man: his love of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, a piece of literature he taught for many years.

"Dante really summarizes man's seeking God," Father Trovato said. "He has tremendous insights into human beings, the accomplishments we as creatures of God can achieve, as well the horrible things we can do ... the potential we have for good, the potential we have for evil."

Father Trovato speculated that at Christ the King he might be able to start a group to discuss or study Dante. He admitted that he will miss teaching, and also the students, who, he said, "energized me."

In looking over his 30 years at St. John Fisher, Father Trovato characteristically downplayed his own accomplishments and influence, saying that his approach to ministry has simply been to try quietly and gently "to respond to everybody. I try to be of service to as many people as I can."

"And," he added, "I try to be myself, I guess."

Not to be mistaken, of course, for St. Francis.

Cardinal

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and said it should be applied to all speakers, including political figures.

Bishop O'Keefe named no individuals, but some people inferred it was aimed at New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, who had a public dispute with Cardinal O'Connor in 1984 over public policy on abortion and was entering a re-election campaign.

After Cuomo criticized the policy publicly, Assemblyman Dearie reported that he had been banned from speaking at his parish.

Dearie said when the parish invited him to speak at a Communion breakfast, his pastor, Monsignor Henry J. Vier, told him it was learned Dearie said he was allowed to speak that time, but at the end of the breakfast it was announced he would not be again.

Cardinal O'Connor later said through a spokesman that he had not ordered the parish to bar Dearie and was sorry if "an overzealous aid" had done so.

In the announcing his dissatisfaction with the policy, Cardinal O'Connor stated that it was one "for which I am solely responsi-

ble" and did not "reflect my original intention." He agreed with Dearie that it was a mistake.

He said he had been "struggling for the past two years" to modify it "to achieve what I had originally intended."

Because of the policy, he said, Dearie was "hurt and humiliated" when he went to the Communion breakfast to talk about the elderly.

"While totally disapproving of his position on abortion, I certainly did not design my policy to prevent John Dearie's telling people about senior citizenship," the cardinal said.

"John Dearie and his wife and I have discussed the incident," Cardinal O'Connor said. "I know they don't believe that I was trying to blackmail, pressure or exercise ecclesiastical muscle."

If people in public office believe they are in a dilemma, however, they must accept the fact that they create a dilemma for the church as well," he said. "There is far too much confusion about church teaching already for this archbishop to courage further ambiguity."

Cardinal O'Connor said he did not "have all the answers" but would discuss the issue further in the future.

Diocesan Appointments

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following diocesan appointments:

Father Richard C. Czerwein, SSSC, from pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Rochester, to parochial vicar at St. Francis Xavier Church in Acushnet, Mass., effective July 7.

Father George E. Gauthier from parochial vicar to temporary administrator of St. Anne's Church, Rochester, effective June 27 to August 8.

Deacon Fernando Ona, M.D., to parish deacon at St. Catherine of Siena Church, Mendon, effective June 5.

Father David P. Reid, SSSC, from parochial vicar to pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Church, Rochester, effective July 7.

Father Nelson J. Ruppert, OFM Cap., pastor of St. Francis Solanus

Church, Interlaken, to concurrent appointment as administrator of Holy Cross Church, Ovid, effective July 1.

Deacon Kenneth Scarciotto to parish deacon at St. Joseph's Church, Penfield, effective May 31.

Father David X. Stump, SJ, from St. Peter's Prep School in Jersey City to teacher at McQuaid Jesuit High School, effective July 1.

Father Patrick T. Sullivan, SJ, from St. Ignatius Parish, Brooklyn, to teacher and rector of the Jesuit community at McQuaid Jesuit High School, effective July 1.

Father Eugene P. Sweeney, pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Seneca Falls, and **Sister Dolores Ann Stein**, principal of St. Ann's School, Hornell, to concurrent ministry as co-spiritual directors of the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Rochester, effective June 19.

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