

Ordinand to juggle priestly, parental duties

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — In many respects, Transitional Deacon Victor W. Bartolotta is like most single parents.

Since his wife died in 1985, Deacon Bartolotta has had to juggle work responsibilities with caring for his eight-year-old daughter, Lynn.

But on June 30, he will become Father Bartolotta, the Diocese of Rochester's newest — and only single-parent — priest.

Deacon Bartolotta does not see that his ordination will drastically set him apart from other single parents, however.

"Single parents are doing everything in society today," he observed.

He noted that while studying at St. Bernard's Institute, he met a single minister who had adopted a child. And, he pointed out, his next-door neighbor is a single man raising an eight-year-old son. "He's dealing with some of the same things I'm dealing with," Deacon Bartolotta remarked.

In addition, the deacon said, he's been a single parent for five years now, and thus already has developed ways for taking care of Lynn while working.

One of those ways is a network of friends and baby sitters who have helped him in the past.

During his pastoral year of service at Rochester's St. Pius X Church, Deacon Bartolotta worked out an arrangement with four families. Each Sunday morning on his way to church, he would drop off Lynn with one of the families — who served on a rotating basis. Lynn would eat with the family, go to Mass with them, and remain at their house until her father returned.

Deacon Bartolotta said he hopes to create



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
Transitional Deacon Victor W. Bartolotta Jr. receives the kiss of peace from Bishop Matthew H. Clark during diaconal ordinations on June 2. Deacon Bartolotta will become the Diocese of Rochester's newest and only single-parent priest when he is ordained June 30.

a similar Sunday-morning arrangement when he begins his assignment June 30 as a priest intern at St. Joseph's, Penfield.

He said he will continue to rely on baby sitters for the evenings when he has to work — noting that he currently averages three evenings a week out — and said he is trying to set up a network of volunteers and paid baby sitters to help out in such emergency situations as late-night calls. Meanwhile, he has decided to cut down on activities other than parish duties to reduce the time he might have to leave Lynn in

child care.

The deacon has already resolved one question about raising Lynn. They will live outside the rectory of whatever parish he serves — one of the conditions he set before his ordination. "I don't think a rectory is conducive to raising a growing daughter," he observed. "I'm trying to give her as normal an environment as possible."

As part of that normal environment, she will continue in many of the activities and lessons in which she is currently involved

— such as piano and tennis lessons — and recently has completed a season in Little League.

Deacon Bartolotta has arranged for Lynn to attend a boarding camp for part of this summer. When not at camp, she will spend her day at a Brighton Recreation Department day camp. And he plans for the two of them to go away for a vacation.

Once school starts, Lynn will continue to attend the Brighton school she currently attends. Deacon Bartolotta said he opted not to enroll her at St. Pius X's school last year, or at St. Joseph's for the coming year, because he wanted her to have continuity. As a priest, he pointed out, he may be assigned to a number of parishes during the next few years, and he didn't want Lynn to have to adjust to a new school each time.

Despite five year's experience as a single parent, Deacon Bartolotta acknowledged that his ordination may well pose problems for Lynn simply because their situation will be unique. She may face some harassment because her father is a priest, and may find herself subject to extra scrutiny by people — a problem faced by the children of ministers.

"I'm trying to avoid that by developing a strong and open relationship with her," Deacon Bartolotta said. As for the pressure and harassment she might face, he said, "We've got to let her deal with it. I want to equip her to deal with that sort of thing."

In choosing to become a single-parent priest, Deacon Bartolotta said he is not trying to set a precedent.

"I don't see myself as a trailblazer," he stated. "I'm trying to serve God, and I happen to have a daughter."

Diocese's \$6.5 million budget features new initiatives

By Lee Strong
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — The Diocese of Rochester has announced an operating budget of \$6,586,000 for the 1990-91 fiscal year, which begins July 1.

The new budget represents an increase of \$767,000 — or 13.2 percent — over the 1989-90 budget of \$5,819,000.

The '90-91 budget includes a six-percent salary increase for diocesan employees, and holds the overall increase for existing programs and services to 5 percent.

As part of the new budget, \$514,000 has also been set aside for funding a number of new diocesan efforts, including: the diocese's seventh synod, which officially began June 17 and will conclude in 1993; scholarships for lay ministers; a marketing project for Catholic schools; and the creation of a special assistant post within the diocesan Department of Development. The new special assistant will oversee planned giving, major gifts and advance gifts for the Thanks Giving Appeal.

In addition to projecting increases in in-

come, the new budget relies less heavily on the TGA than have previous years' budgets.

The 1990 goal for the appeal — the diocese's chief source of income — is \$4.1 million. The 1989 goal was \$4,059,417. The TGA will represent 62 percent of diocesan income in 1990-91 — down from 73 percent in fiscal 1989-90.

According to Mark Seeberg, diocesan director of development, that shift comes as part of an effort to decrease reliance on the appeal as the diocese's primary funding source.

"Seventy-three percent of an institutional budget (coming from an annual appeal) is too much," Seeberg said. "We simply have to find other sources of income."

The 1990/91 budget calls for increased income from a number of "other sources," including \$210,000 from the Cardinal Mooney endowment (the \$4.2 million the diocese received from the sale of the Cardinal Mooney High School building); \$172,000 in self-generating in-

come (fees and rents); \$50,000 from the TGA followup; and \$40,000 from bequests from estates. All told, the diocese is projecting an increase in income of \$767,000.

Seeberg pointed out that the income projections are conservative estimates, and that actual diocesan income may well exceed the amounts contained in the budget. He noted, for example, that the diocese is currently negotiating a \$500,000 bequest, which had not been included in the income projections.

One additional change in the 1990-91 budgetary process is that the TGA's quota system has been modified. In previous years, a parish was responsible for making its goal, and any shortfall in appeal collections had to be offset by monies drawn from the parish's other revenues.

Beginning with the new budget, however, parish quotas will constitute only

85 percent of their overall goals. Thus if a parish falls short of its overall goal but does reach 85 percent of that goal, it will not be forced to make up the difference from other funds.

Eventually, Seeberg said, the quota system will be eliminated, and TGA contributions will be entirely voluntary. This can only happen, however, if income from other sources continues to increase, he acknowledged.

According to Father John M. Mulligan, vicar general and moderator of the pastoral office, a number of the new initiatives contained in the budget were called for in the

Continued on page 14

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