

## Faith

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discussion. "When they talk about how they use their money, there's sometimes an opportunity to talk to them about the benefits of using it for society," he said.

Rochester attorney Irene Dymkar also tries to take into account the needs of her clients in her legal work.

"The legal answer to a problem is not always the best answer for people personally," Dymkar said. "I find myself often telling people what their legal options are, but also trying to tell them options that would be best for them emotionally, psychologically. It's a very fine line that I walk, because my role is to give them legal advice."

Robert Brown, vice president for human resources at Monroe Community College, likewise finds his faith leading him to look beyond just the legal guidelines in his job.

"There are many day-to-day issues which not only have a legal or procedural way of handling them, but also have moral or ethical dimensions to them," Brown observed.

In addition to his own work at the college — where he deals with a wide range of personnel decisions — Brown is also called upon to serve as a hearing official in other personnel matters. In all of these decisions, the St. Pius X parishioner said he tries to base his actions on "basic values of truth and honesty and faith in people."

"I think you can be straight forward and honest with people," Brown said, "and even though it can cost you on the bottom line, you're further ahead in the long run. In my case, trying to be the best administrator I can be is part of my responsibility to give to my creator."

One of the keys to spirituality in the work place is, in fact, to remain in the marketplace and to struggle to live out one's faith there, Droel observed.

"There is a role for the prophet, the person who steps outside the system," Droel said. "The real work of social justice is to improve the institution from the inside. The worker who approaches work with an appreciation of its spiritual dimension tries to do a good job. You don't have to preach at work. You evangelize, you give witness, by doing good work."

This approach is not limited to just white-collar, professional jobs, Father Haughey observed during a telephone interview with the *Catholic Courier*. It includes work in the home, blue-collar jobs, and even jobs considered menial, he said, citing the example of a woman who stacks goods at a supermarket where he shops.

"She prays all day long for the people who will use these products," Father Haughey said. "It looks like a menial job, but inside herself, it is not menial. She connects it to God in the world."

This kind of spirituality is not as common as it should be simply because people are not aware of it, Evans pointed out. The

church, in part, has failed to address the issue adequately.

One area where spirituality in the workplace could be addressed is from the pulpit, Evans suggested. "I think the first thing to consider is saying it to the people in the pews," he said. "What you do tomorrow, on Monday, when you go back to your jobs — whether it be inside the home or outside, paid or unpaid — you're doing God's work. That is your vocation. That's when you make your contribution to bringing God's message to the world."

In addition to homilies, parishes could simply recognize chosen professions, Evans suggested. One way to do this would be Masses celebrated for specific occupation groups — such a day recognizing all teachers, or one for all parishioners involved in medical fields.

Dymkar noted that all too often, when such recognition is given, it is still limited to those involved in church-affiliated ministries. She pointed out, for example, that

her parish runs Rogers House, a ministry that, among other tasks, helps ex-offenders just out of prison gain employment skills.

The people who work in that ministry are justly praised for what they do, Dymkar noted. But a parishioner outside the ministry works for the county government, helping to arrange job training and employment for people — and in far greater numbers those served by Rogers House. That man, she said, does not receive recognition. "We will celebrate Roger's House, but we won't celebrate the job (that man) is doing," she said.

Another way to offer support for lay people is to encourage support groups and to provide forums for lay people, Droel said, noting, "The church hasn't done much in the way of providing forums."

One such forum can be found, however, at Rochester's St. Margaret Mary Parish, which established an Ethics in the Marketplace series as an outgrowth of a parish retreat two years ago.

The forum consists of a monthly Mass, breakfast and address by a local business or professional person. Now just a few months into its second year, the series this fall has offered talks by St. John Fisher President William Pickett and *Catholic Courier* editor in chief Karen Franz.

Droel applauded efforts like the one undertaken by St. Margaret Mary's. Such forums, he said, can help Catholics discover that spirituality extends into all aspects of their lives. "We just have to give up the idea that there's a difference between the sacred and the secular, and we have to begin looking at all the elements around us," he said.

One of the challenges for the church is to encourage this broader understanding of spirituality, Pierce contended.

"The church has two choices," Pierce concluded. "To offer itself as a refuge from the world or as an aid to help Catholics figure out what it means to be Christian out in that world."

## Reaction

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on the new configuration when contacted by the *Catholic Courier*.

### Southeast Quadrant

"We were very pleased," exclaimed Catherine Kress, principal of Guardian Angels in Henrietta which was slated to close under the original Southeast plan. "(Guardian Angels) is an excellent school. I think it's an asset to the Henrietta community."

St. Boniface, also targeted for closing by the original plan, was the home of similar sentiments. "We are delighted that St. Boniface will be here next year and for the future," remarked Sister Mary Smith, SSND, principal.

Last spring, the Rochester school initiated an aggressive marketing campaign to increase enrollment after the schools' commission tabled its plan to close St. Boniface. The school had been suffering from declining numbers of students.

Mary Lipa, head of the school's Parents' Club, expressed satisfaction at the successful outcome of the school's recruiting efforts which, she speculated, had influenced the commission's decision to keep the school open.

"I thought that (the parents) had done a lot to keep the school, and I thought that their efforts paid off," she said.

Sister Katherine Ann Rappl, principal of St. Rita's in Webster, noted that her school is planning to initiate a marketing campaign after receiving a conditional reprieve in the latest plan. St. Rita's had been scheduled for closing under the original draft plan.

Under the new plan, St. Rita and nearby Holy Trinity will be treated as one school for purposes of monitoring enrollment. If the combined enrollment of the two schools declines, the quadrant's governance board may opt to consolidate the two schools under a single roof.

Several administrators also praised the

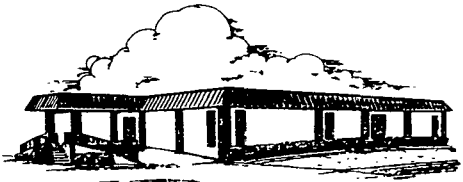
time line set by the new plan, which gives the quadrant two years to establish a suburban junior high program.

"I think it's a lot better than the (time line) they gave us in January," commented Christopher Meagher, principal of Seton Catholic Intermediate and Junior High.

"This announcement, even now for next year, is just about at the right time," Meagher said, recalling that the Southeast Quadrant Principals' Association had opposed the original plan because it allowed administrators little time to prepare for a switch to a quadrant system in the fall of this year.

Kress likewise praised the current plan's time line because it gives the Southeast Quadrant two years to choose a site for the suburban junior high. But, when asked if she could think of any possible sites that would be accessible to all the quadrant's suburban students, Kress responded, "if there are, I can't think of them."

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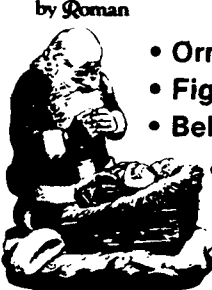
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