

# Diocese launches affordable-housing venture

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester has launched a new housing initiative called the Providence Housing Development Corporation.

Under Executive Director Maggie Bringewatt, the not-for-profit development corporation — which formed June 20 — will address the housing needs of low-income families throughout the diocese, including the elderly as well as individuals who are physically handicapped, mentally ill, HIV-positive and developmentally disabled.

In meeting those needs, the corporation will help not only with construction and rehabilitation of decent, affordable housing, but may eventually become involved with management of housing units.

The corporation will work cooperatively with parishes; Catholic Charities-affiliated agencies such as Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier, Finger Lakes Social Ministry and the Catholic Family Center; religious congregations; and other agencies and groups.

Bringewatt said, for example, that conversations have already taken place for joint projects with Catholic Family Center in Rochester to provide rent subsidies for people coming out of Project Restart, and with Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier to rehabilitate some property in Elmira to provide housing for mentally ill individuals.

In addition, the Providence corporation will advise Bishop Matthew H. Clark and the diocese's Public Policy Committee on housing-related public policy issues at the local, state and federal levels.

The corporation's funding will come from funds designated by Catholic Charities' board of directors — money set aside for items not contained in the agency's budget — and Rochester's Community Development Fund. Bringewatt is currently seeking funding through additional grants.

Jack Balinsky, director of Catholic Charities, will serve as chairman of the corporation's board of directors.

In announcing the corporation's formation, Balinsky noted, "Decent, affordable housing stock is critical to the sta-

bility of these families and individuals."

Catholic Charities' board of directors decided to create the corporation late last year after studying housing issues throughout the diocese and discovering the strong need for affordable housing, explained Bringewatt, who served as deputy director of the Rochester Housing Authority from 1980-88, and as a consultant in housing and community development.

As part of that study, Bringewatt added, the board looked at what the diocese was doing and learned that it was the only New York state diocese without a "housing component."

In conjunction with already-existing agencies and groups, the corporation will identify housing needs, seek land and funding, oversee construction, and provide management when necessary. Support services for residents of the

housing projects will be provided by agencies with which the corporation works to develop projects, Bringewatt said.

This support is vital, Bringewatt explained.

"In many cases, (the residents) need the support services to maintain quality of life," Bringewatt observed, noting that she has seen housing projects fail due to the lack of follow-up support.

Bringewatt said she would also like to see diocesan parishes get involved with the projects.

"One of the things we hope is that some of the parishes will help identify (projects and sites) that can be developed and provide that welcoming and support to the families that they need," Bringewatt said.

In addition to Balinsky, other charter members of the Providence Housing De-

velopment Corporation's board are: Thomas Ament, diocesan finance operations director; Martin Birmingham, assistant vice president of Fleet Bank, Rochester; Mark Greisberger, attorney at Barrett & Greisberger; Andy Griffith, vice president of Coldwell Banker Lake-side Sales Associates, Canandaigua; Susan Lawrence, regional director of the Finger Lakes region, New York State Department of Economic Development, Rochester; Gloria Lopez, attorney at Gallo & Iacovangelo, Rochester; Thomas F. McHugh, executive director of the Rochester Housing Authority; Martin Moll Jr., vice president of investments for Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc., Rochester; Burton Richardson, executive director of Baden Street Settlement, Rochester; and Mary Ann Starbuck, executive director of Southern Tier Hospice, Elmira.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

## Festival celebrates Ukrainian culture

St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Church, 940 Ridge Road E., Rochester, hosted its 22nd annual Ukrainian Arts and Crafts Festival Aug. 18-21. The ethnic festival celebrates Ukrainian culture through songs, craft demonstrations, ceramics, embroidery and folk dancing. Above, members of the 'Yevshan' dance group wait their turn at the side of the stage during another group's performance. Joshua Weirich, photo at right, performs with partner Helena Krawniski.



## Superintendent tabs five school principals

Timothy W. Dwyer, diocesan superintendent of schools, has announced the appointment of the following principals:

- **William Davis**, who taught at Fairport's St. John of Rochester School since 1983, is the new principal at Most Precious Blood in Rochester.

- **Sister Barbara Hamm, RSM**, who served as principal of Our Lady of Mercy High School, Brighton, since 1989, is the new principal of St. Louis School in Pittsford — a position she held previously from 1970-81. She also served as principal of St. John the Evangelist School on Rochester's Humboldt Street from 1981-89.

- **Joseph Holleran**, vice principal of Northeastern Catholic Junior High in Irondequoit since 1990, has assumed the duties of principal. Holleran's experience includes teaching assignments at Northeastern; Blessed Sacrament Consolidated Junior High, Rochester; Our Lady of Lourdes, Brighton; and Christ the King in Irondequoit.

- **Rebecca Maloney**, who taught at Holy Cross School in Rochester since 1984, has been named principal of Mother of Sorrows School in Greece.

The diocese previously announced Eileen O'Neill's appointment as principal at St. Mary's School in Canandaigua.

## Miss America's mission is erasing homelessness

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Kimberly Aiken has achieved a goal that countless thousands of young women across the country can only fantasize about.

Yet the 19-year-old Aiken has stayed very much in touch with reality since she was crowned Miss America last September.

Rather than get carried away in a sea of extravagance, Aiken has committed herself to helping those who live in a far less glamorous world.

Some of her jam-packed itinerary reflects how much time Aiken has invested in assisting the underprivileged. Among her appearances this month

were visiting the Jesus House Shelter in Oklahoma City on Aug. 3-4; speaking on behalf of Urban Mission Ministries in Steubenville, Ohio, on Aug. 12-13; and appearing at the Other Place Shelter in Dayton, Ohio, on Aug. 14-15.

"I get only one day off this month," Aiken acknowledged in an interview with the *Catholic Courier* last week.

And when Miss America visited Rochester last Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 16-17, her primary goal was to support Women's Place, a shelter for homeless women operated by the Catholic Family Center.

Aiken made a personal visit on Aug. 17 to Women's Place, where she toured the facility while meeting residents and staff. She then attended a luncheon at

the Rochester Riverside Convention Center, 123 E. Main St., during which Bishop Matthew H. Clark delivered an invocation.

Aiken's appearance coincided with the fifth-anniversary celebration of Women's Place, a 17-bed facility located on Rochester's west side. CFC also oversees Francis Hospitality Center, a shelter for homeless men located in the city's northeast section.

Aiken, a native of Columbia, S.C., said that winning the Miss America pageant has enabled her voice to be heard more loudly.

"If I wasn't Miss America, I would definitely not be traveling 20,000 miles a month," Aiken commented. "I think the

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