

Bishop appoints Brown communications head

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has named Elizabeth S. Brown to the newly created position of director of communications for the Diocese of Rochester.

Brown had been director of constituent relations/communications in the diocese's development office since 1989.

"Upgrading this position to the diocesan director level reflects a serious commitment on the part of Bishop Clark and his management team to enhance two-way communication both internally and externally," said Father John Mulligan, the diocese's vicar general and Pastoral Center moderator. "This ini-

tiative responds to advice from the bishop's Stewardship Council as well as to the consistent call throughout our synod process for improved communications."

In her new job, Brown will plan and implement communications programs to enhance understanding of the diocese's mission. She also will assist and advise Bishop Clark and various diocesan ministries on communications issues.

In addition to Brown's appointment, the diocese named Pamela Kingsley to the new post of communications assistant. She has been with the diocese since 1992.

Hope Hall looks for craft people for April 1 fundraiser

ROCHESTER — Hope Hall, an alternative school that helps students who have trouble learning in traditional settings, is seeking crafters for an April 1 spring craft fair at the school, 1612 Buffalo Road. Hours for the fair will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

In addition to craft items for sale, the fair will include raffles, face painting, a bake sale, arts and crafts activities for children, and concessions.

The fee for crafters is \$25 per table. Vendors also are asked to donate an item valued at \$15 for the raffle table.

Proceeds from the fair will benefit Hope Hall.

The school was founded by Sister Diana Dolce, SSJ, who developed the mastery in learning program. The program consists of breaking down subjects into small sequential tasks, allowing students time and support to master the material. In addition, students are taught study and organizational skills.

For information, or to reserve a table, write to Linda McGrain, 76 Dalkeith Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14609, or call her at 716/654-7048.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Lenka Horwath (center) explains the kitchen appliances to newly arrived Bosnian refugees Sasa and Zeljko Stanic.

Refugees

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the 181 refugees settled in the diocese last year — they are declining as a percentage of the flow of refugees to the diocese.

Meanwhile, last year's total included 25 Haitians and 22 Bosnians. Iraqi, Ukrainians and a Laotian also received assistance through Delaney's office.

Delaney acknowledged that some of the early volunteers were attracted to and sustained by working with Amerasians. Volunteers might have difficulty in working with a series of different ethnic groups, he noted, adding that he is concerned about providing support to keep volunteers' morale up.

Beyond volunteers, Delaney's office also needs financial aid to assist the refugees. The federal government provides some money for helping refugees get settled, Delaney said, but it is not enough. Thus, he suggested that individuals and parishes overwhelmed with other commitments could consider donating money to help with setting up

apartments and transportation.

Beyond the impact the anti-immigrant movement is having on his program, Delaney said efforts across the country to restrict immigration — both legal and illegal — are shortsighted.

"They've twisted it up so it seems like immigrants and refugees are a drain on the country," Delaney remarked. But, he noted, the majority of immigrants find jobs and become productive members of society.

"Even the illegals," Delaney continued, "they are paying taxes, they are providing cheap labor. All the studies show this is so."

To help counter myths and stereotypes, Delaney has even produced a brochure pointing out that immigrants pose no health hazards, are not less educated than native-born workers, do pay for services they receive, are not over-represented among welfare recipients and have a favorable impact on the U.S. economy.

In light of the facts, Delaney concluded, "It is in the country's best economic interest to continue letting immigrants into the country."

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Prop. 187

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Washington-based Latino Civil Rights Task Force.

California's churches were among the most adamant opponents of Proposition 187, and in those counties where religious groups were well organized the measure failed or passed narrowly, said Gregory Kepferle, associate executive director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Oakland.

Among the lessons learned by the passage of Proposition 187 were the importance of organizing opposition to such measures even before they make it to the ballot, Kepferle said.

"Start yesterday," he said. "If the initiative is on the ballot, it's too late."

Florida has not experienced the kind of anti-immigrant hostility that led to California's initiative, but signs of support are surfacing for introduction of similar legislation there, said Monsignor Bryan O. Walsh, Catholic Charities director for the Archdiocese of Miami.

One sign is an increase in the number of phone calls to his office that begin, "I'm a Catholic, but..." and continue with the caller complaining about the church's role as a provider and advocate for legal and illegal immigrants and refugees, Monsignor Walsh said.

Often those conversations end with him telling the caller that "it's a free country and you're entitled to your opinion, but please, don't tell people you're a Catholic," he said.

A total of 51 percent of Catholics in California voted against Proposition 187, Kepferle reported. Fifty-eight percent of white Catholics supported it, about the same margin by which it was approved by voters in general.

Monsignor Walsh said those figures reflect a basic split that must be addressed if church leaders hope to persuade Catholic voters that church teaching, which favors the rights of immigrants, should prevail.

"The clash between Catholic and American cultures is fundamental to this issue," Monsignor Walsh said.

Kepferle noted that some of the major problems Proposition 187 opponents faced were divisive efforts to fight it and inconsistent messages. Among the most harmful events in the opposition campaign was a series of rallies within the Hispanic community that unified opposition among Latinos but solidified support for the measure.

The well-reported rallies and later protests staged by high school students featured throngs of people carrying Mexican flags.

Prior to the rallies, polls showed a 5 percentage point difference between support and opposition, said Sharry. Three days after the rally, the margin of support for 187 grew to 16 points, he said.

More successful were parish-level education efforts, especially those that relied upon the personal stories of immigrants, Kepferle said. "Immigration Sundays" put a human face on the implications of Proposition 187, he said.