

# Bishop appoints two pastoral administrators

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the appointment of two new pastoral administrators, one who is the first lay man to serve the diocese in this position. The appointments are effective June 27.

Dean Francis Condon, a Rochester native who is currently the director of Charismatic Renewal Services for the Archdiocese of Boston, has been named pastoral administrator of Guardian Angels Parish, 2061 E. Henrietta Road, Henrietta.

Guardian Angels suffered the sudden death of its pastor, Father Richard Hart, last June 19.

Sister Alice Cooney, SSJ, currently senior ministry associate at St. Theodore's Church in Gates, has been named pastoral administrator of St. Joseph's Parish, 6105 Rush-Lima Road, Rush. St. Joseph's current pastor, Father Richard O'Connell, is retiring at the end of next month.

As pastoral administrators, Condon and Sister Cooney will oversee the day-to-day administration of their respective parishes. Sacramental ministries — including Holy Communion, the sacrament of reconciliation, baptisms and marriages — will be administered by priests acting as sacramental ministers for the parishes.

Mary Kessler, director of diocesan Human Resources, noted that sacra-

mental ministers have not yet been named for the parishes.

Kessler added that both Condon and Sister Cooney were selected from a candidate pool the diocese created in anticipation of pastoral-administrator openings. The establishment of this pool made the selection process easier than it had been in 1994, when Sister Anne Michelle McGill, SSJ, became the diocese's first pastoral administrator upon

her appointment at St. Gabriel's Parish in Hammondsport.

However, the rest of the process leading to the placements of Condon and Sister Cooney was the same as what had been done in the Hammondsport appointment, Kessler observed.

Both St. Joseph's and Guardian Angels parishes went through a discernment process to evaluate what kind of pastoral leadership they were seeking.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

## Celebrating neophytes

Bishop Matthew H. Clark May 20 presided over the Diocesan Neophyte Mass at Rochester's Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park. The Mass celebrates newly initiated Catholics throughout the diocese who recently completed the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program. (Above) Jenny Privitera (far left) and Doug Medley, new Sacred Heart parishioners, participate in the Mass.

# Diocese releases action steps for Synod

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

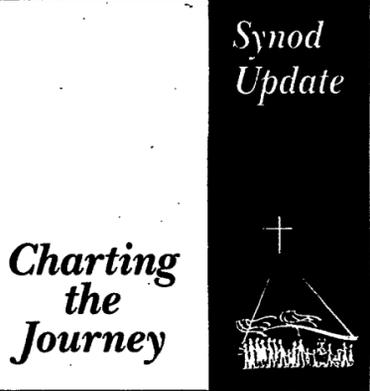
The Diocese of Rochester has released a detailed plan for the first year of implementing the four goals of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan — including in the plan the hiring of two new diocesan personnel at the Pastoral Center to help coordinate activities in two areas and the creation of a Pastoral Center Technological Initiative Team to help improve communications and make better use of technological resources.

The 1995-1996 Pastoral Center Synod Action Steps — released May 1 — details specific actions and how Pastoral Center resources will be allocated to support parishes in implementing the four goals contained in the Diocese of Rochester's pastoral plan.

Those goals are: forming Catholics in beliefs, Catholic morality and spirituality throughout life; advocating for the consistent life ethic; recognizing the value and dignity of women in church and society; and promoting the growth of small Christian communities.

Meanwhile, parish staffs and volunteers were invited to a series of 11 regional meetings between May 1 and May 12 to discuss the steps and offer further suggestions.

According to Kathleen Cannon, Synod Implementation Coordinator, more than 200 people representing more than 100 parishes, clusters or faith communities attended the regional meetings.



"I was really pleased with attendance," Cannon observed.

One of the goals of the meetings was to get feedback about whether the Pastoral Center action steps faithfully reflected the kind of support parishes and faith communities said they would need in implementing the pastoral plan. The Pastoral Center plan is based on parish implementation plans submitted to the Synod Implementation Office earlier this year.

Among the specific actions already undertaken by the diocese are the hiring of Suzanne G. Schnittman as Consistent Life Ethic Coordinator, and Karen Rinefierd as the new coordinator for Young Adult, Adult and Family Faith Formation. The appointments become effective July 1, 1995.

Another step — made in response to requests from parishes for better coordination of resources materials available from the diocese — has been the upgrading from part-time to full-time of the position of Mary Ellen FitzGibbons, resource librarian for the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis. Moreover, an effort is underway to consolidate audio visual material available through various departments.

Pastoral Center personnel also created the Technological Initiative Team in response to parish requests for better communications and use of current technologies. The team is currently creating

an inventory of available resources.

Cannon pointed out that one theme that emerged from the regional discussions was the need for training of staffs and volunteers.

Specifically, staffs and volunteers were looking for not only education about the goals, but with training in the skills needed to work with parishioners, Cannon reported.

"What they need is training on how to best initiate and manage discussion on issues that are often emotional," Cannon explained. She cited the example of the death penalty as one such issue that tends to polarize people.

At the regional meetings, Cannon continued, there was a "very strong emphasis from parishes throughout the diocese for a.v. and other types of resources that could be purchased by the parishes and used by the parishes for adult education and home use." Regional meeting participants recommended that the diocese have available materials for parishes to preview before deciding what to purchase.

These and other recommendations will be forwarded to the Pastoral Center staff responsible for overseeing components of the pastoral plan, Cannon said.

Meanwhile, Synod activities will be continuing with the appointment in the coming weeks of 11 regional Synod coordinators by Bishop Matthew H. Clark. These individuals will serve as contact people in the regions, both for parish Synod coordinators and for diocesan personnel. They will also facilitate networking among the parishes and institution involved in implementing the pastoral plan; convene as needed parish Synod leaders; and report progress on Synod implementation to the Synod Implementation Commission.

Moreover, Cannon said, Pastoral Center personnel will be working to coordinate implementation efforts so that parishes are not overwhelmed with resources and meetings, and consequently get pulled in too many directions at once.

Once parishioners at each church determined a pastoral administrator was an appropriate option, a committee of parish members interviewed candidates for the position.

"We rely very heavily on the local committee when it comes to interviewing the candidates," Kessler said.

Sister Cooney said she sees her new position as an opportunity for leadership in the church.

"I believe this is a wonderful new role for women in the church," Sister Cooney said. "I just think it places a religious or lay man or lay woman in a position of leadership that had not been open to us previously."

Meanwhile, after working in administrative work on an archdiocesan level for seven years, Condon is looking forward to parish work.

"The biggest thing is that, as much as I truly love the position I have here (in Boston), my heart has been wanting to work and build in a community," Condon said. "I felt that in terms of my long-term ministerial goals, it was to work with the local parish."

Prior to becoming senior ministry associate at St. Theodore's in 1994, Sister Cooney had served as pastoral associate at Mendon's St. Catherine of Siena Church from 1982-93, and as a religious educator from 1968-82. She holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics from Nazareth College of Rochester, and a master of arts degree in theology from the University of Notre Dame.

Condon was born in Greece, lived in Brighton, and attended St. Joseph's Church in Penfield before leaving for college in Massachusetts.

His family continues to attend the Penfield church, and it was during a visit to Rochester last summer that he and his wife decided to explore ministry options in the Rochester diocese, Condon said.

He holds a bachelor's degree in theology and philosophy from Boston College, and a master of divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School. His master's thesis was on the topic, "Collaborative Ministry in Parishes."

## DIOCESAN APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following diocesan appointments. All appointments are effective June 27, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

**Dean F. Condon**, from director of Charismatic Renewal Services of the Archdiocese of Boston, Mass., to pastoral administrator of Guardian Angels Church in Henrietta.

**Sister Alice Cooney, SSJ**, from senior ministry associate at St. Theodore's Church in Rochester, to pastoral administrator of St. Joseph Church in Rush.

**Father George P. Heyman**, from study leave at Harvard Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., to priest administrator of Rochester's Holy Apostles/St. Anthony of Padua Parish Cluster, for a one-year term effective June 12, 1995.

**Father James P. Jaeger**, from parochial vicar of St. Margaret Mary Church in Irondequoit, to pastor of St. Ann Church in Hornell.

**Father John A. Lynch**, from pastor of St. Theresa Church in Stanley and St. Mary Church in Rushville, to pastor of St. James Church in Rochester.

**Father Michael A. McHale**, from parochial vicar of St. Stephen Church in Geneva, to full-time priest chaplain at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580)  
Vol. 106 No. 34 May 25, 1995

Published weekly except the last Thursday in December.

Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$20.00; Canada and foreign \$20.00 plus postage. Offices: 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, 716/328-4340. Second-Class postage paid at Rochester, N.Y.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.