

**Ordination****Teacher trades lectern for pulpit**

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — If not for a tight market for teachers, the Diocese of Rochester might have one fewer priest today.

In 1988, Father Kip Francis Corriveau, who was ordained a priest by Bishop Matthew H. Clark Saturday, June 3, at Sacred Heart Cathedral, graduated from the State University of New York College at Cortland with a degree in secondary education to teach social studies. He noted, however, "There were no jobs in social studies."

But the switch from teaching to priesthood was not unexpected, noted Father Corriveau, an Auburn native whose home parish is Sacred Heart Church.

Indeed, the son of Robert and Dawn Corriveau had been pursuing his teaching degree with the idea of possibly joining a teaching order such as the Jesuits or the Dominicans.

"It was always something I'd been exploring, starting the junior year of college," Father Corriveau recalled.

The idea of being a priest, Father Corriveau explained, had only occurred to him while he was in college. "It was an intuition that I was coming to throughout that period. But like so many intuitions, it was amorphous, uncertain."

So after finishing school and not finding a teaching job, he began working as a nurse's aide at a head-trauma center in Cortland. During that time, he continued to think about the priesthood, and in April of 1989, applied to the Diocese of Syracuse, in which Cortland is located.

"I finally got to the point when I said I'm going to try it," Father Corriveau said. "I decided I'm going to get off my duff and do something and not just sit here and 'discern.'"

After studying at St. Thomas Aquinas House, Syracuse's equivalent of the Diocese of Rochester's Becket Hall — where men considering the priesthood live while completing undergraduate academic requirements in philosophy and theology — and LeMoyne College, Father Corriveau enrolled at St. Mary's Seminary and University in Baltimore.

But even as he was involved in St. Mary's program of study, he was continuing to discern if he wanted to be a priest of the Syracuse diocese, Father Corriveau acknowledged.

"Once again, it was an intuition," Father Corriveau said. "It was like a suit of clothes. I really liked the people, but it didn't feel comfortable."

Meanwhile, he had been talking to people in the Rochester diocese, including Father Lee P. Chase, parochial vicar at Auburn's St. Mary's Church. Consequently, he applied to and was accepted by the Diocese of Rochester.

As part of his preparation for the priesthood, Father Corriveau remained working in the medical world, serving a field placement in a hospital in Baltimore, before his clinical pastoral education at Rochester's Strong Memorial Hospital.

From 1993-94, Father Corriveau served a pastoral year at Elmira's St. Mary's Parish, where he found a way to use his teaching skills by organizing a Bible study program for adults. But, he acknowledged, because he was not ordained even as a deacon, it was difficult at times for him to get more involved in ministry.

"As a seminarian, there's not a huge amount you can do," he observed. "You can go to events. You can be there with people."

Still, even just being with people was



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Father Kip Francis Corriveau, an Auburn native, kneels as Father Lee P. Chase of St. Mary's Church in Auburn and other diocesan priests perform the laying of the hands during the June 3 ordination at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Rochester.



Bishop Matthew H. Clark embraces Father Kip Francis Corriveau after ordaining Father Corriveau a priest June 3 at Rochester's Sacred Heart Cathedral. The newly ordained priest is about to begin his assignment as priest intern at Holy Cross Parish in Rochester.

helpful.

"You learn not so much by doing as by just being there," Father Corriveau said. "What I found during my pastoral years was my call (to the priesthood) was affirmed. People came up to me and said, 'You're going to be a great priest.' They treated me like a priest."

"It was the people," he added, "who formed me in the kind of priest I'm go-

ing to be."

Father Corriveau also has a model of what a priest should be in the person of Father Raymond J. Wahl, founding pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in 1956 who remained the parish's pastor until 1982. He now resides at St. Alphonsus Parish in retirement.

Father Wahl, Father Corriveau said, "was one of those people who genuinely likes people. It was clear that you were important to him."

"I don't think it was an accident that two guys from the (same) parish became priests," Father Corriveau added, noting that fellow parishioner Father Chris Welch became a priest of the Albany diocese.

Father Corriveau was ordained a transitional deacon April 23, 1994, at St. Mary's Seminary, then returned to St. Mary's, Elmira, to complete his pastoral year. He finally left the parish at the end of the school year — but with regrets.

"I loved pastoral year," he remarked. "I didn't want to leave."

Soon, Father Corriveau will be taking up duties at a new parish: Holy Cross Parish in Rochester, as a priest intern. Although he suspects he will have his hand in adult education and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program, he is uncertain at this point what areas of ministry in he will be involved in.

But even as he readies for his first assignment as a priest, the teacher in Father Corriveau is perhaps still lingering beneath the surface.

"You have to come in ready to learn," Father Corriveau concluded.

**Bishop Clark to ordain new permanent deacons**

ROCHESTER — Bishop Matthew H. Clark is scheduled to ordain three men to the permanent diaconate at 10:30 a.m. this Saturday, June 10, at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park.

Slated to be ordained are John E. Antenucci of Church of the Resurrection, Fairport; Joseph Dwyer of St. Charles Borromeo Church, Greece; and Brian A. Mahoney of St. Joseph's Church, Penfield.

Antenucci is a New York City native who moved to Rochester in 1966 with his wife Roni to begin working for Xerox Corp. The couple have two children.

The Antenuccis have been actively involved with the Charismatic, Marriage Encounter and Cursillo movements. During diaconal formation, they served in summer ministry programs at Dimitri House and as chaplain-interns at Rochester General Hospital. Antenucci has also been working for the past year as a pastoral care assistant at St. Ann's Home/The Heritage.

Dwyer and his wife Iris have four children. He has conducted a counseling service at St. Borromeo Parish's Borromeo Prayer Center for several years. An alcohol counselor at Rochester's Genesee Hospital, he has been involved in adult-education programs on alcoholism and addictions at parishes and Christian communities throughout the Rochester area.

Mahoney and his wife Elaine have two children. He has been active in jail ministry at the Monroe County Jail and through the diocese's Separated, Divorced, Widowed and Bereaved Ministry. He is employed as a tax specialist at the law firm of Nixon, Hargrave, Devans and Doyle.

**Bethany House needs two full-time staffers**

ROCHESTER — Bethany House, a Catholic Worker agency for homeless women and children, is looking for two people — preferably women — to work as full-time, live-in staff.

Both positions offer room, board, health insurance and a small stipend.

Applicants unable to live at the house, but still interested in working there 40 hours a week, will also be considered.

Located on the grounds of St. Bridget's Parish, 175 St. Bridget Drive, Bethany House since 1977 has sheltered, fed and clothed women who have been evicted, abused, imprisoned, raped or abandoned, or who have suffered physical or mental illness.

Women live at Bethany House for a maximum of three weeks during which time they seek permanent residences. House staff assist the women in finding employment and social services, and refer the women to professional counselors when necessary.

Emergency housing is available for six women and their children. Two formerly homeless women live permanently at the house.

Bethany House also operates a food cupboard and clothing center, and needs volunteers. The house is supported solely through the goodwill of individuals, churches and charitable groups.

To make a donation to Bethany House, or to volunteer, call Donna Ecker at 716/454-4197.