

DIOCESAN NEWS

Courier announces two new editorial appointments

The *Catholic Courier* has announced the appointment of former senior staff writer Lee F. Strong as associate editor, and the hiring of Kathleen J. Schwar as copy editor and staff writer. Their positions took effect Oct. 9, 1995.

Strong, a former Geneva resident, is a graduate of DeSales High School. He received his bachelor's degree from St. John Fisher College and his master's degree from the University of Rochester.

He joined the *Catholic Courier* in 1987 as a staff writer, and became senior staff writer in 1992. Strong has received several state and national awards over this period, including first place nationally in 1992 — in the Best Feature Category — from the Catholic Press Association. He also shared in a first-place New York Press Association staff award in 1993 for

Best Coverage of Health Care.

Prior to his time at the *Catholic Courier*, Strong was employed by Association for Retarded Citizens (1979-81) and Our Lady of Mercy High School (1982-87). He currently resides in Gates where he is a parishioner at St. Theodore's Church.



Lee Strong



Kathleen Schwar

Schwar is a native of Illinois. She received a bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University. Her newspaper work includes a stint as a reporter for the *Tribune Chronicle* in Warren,

Ohio, from 1981 to 1987, where she compiled an eight-page weekly religion section. During that period, she also

performed free-lance duties for *Newsweek* magazine.

In 1987, Schwar received the national Religion Newswriters Association's Cassels Award for writing. She also won state press association awards in several Midwestern states. She later was a public relations writer and editor for Roberts Publications in East Rochester (1987-90) and a free-lance religion writer for the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle* (1990-92), as well as for Religion News Service.

She recently worked for Lifespan, the former Regional Council on Aging. She began writing for the *Catholic Courier* in 1994 on a free-lance basis. Among her full-time duties will be coverage of the Fingers Lakes area formerly covered by Strong. Schwar resides in Webster.

Obituaries

Deacon Gary Clark campaigned for hospice

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

For 30 years, Gary D. Clark, Sr., worked as a customer service representative at Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation. His position inspired him to become a permanent deacon, according to his wife of 32 years, Beverly (Vassallo) Clark. "It was his job in customer relations to help people," she commented. "He knew that maybe as deacon he could reach them at a different level."

Deacon Clark, a parish deacon at St. Catherine of Siena Church in Mendon since his 1994 ordination, died suddenly of a massive heart attack at his Pittsford home Sunday, Oct. 8, 1995. He was 52.

His death comes only a few months after he had been installed as a full-time deacon at St. Catherine's last July.

"When he finally was working officially and full-time at St. Catherine's he said, 'This feels like what I've been preparing for for 52 years,'" Beverly remarked.

A native of Rochester, Deacon Clark graduated from St. Anne's School in 1957 and from McQuaid Jesuit High

School in 1961.

Following high school graduation, Deacon Clark attended classes at the Rochester Institute of Technology before joining RG&E.

As a candidate for the diaconate, he distinguished himself through his sense of caring, according to Father George Norton, co-chaplain at The Genesee Hospital, where Deacon Clark served a summer internship.

"He was very dedicated," Father Norton said. "He easily built up a warm relationship with patients."

Long active in such groups as the parish council at St. Catherine's, Deacon Clark's latest project was an effort to establish Benincasa Hospice, a two-bed home for the terminally ill that would be run cooperatively by St. Catherine's, St. Mark's Lutheran and Mendon Presbyterian churches.

"Gary was certainly foremost in that," stated Father Charles J. Latus, pastor of St. Catherine's.

The campaign to establish the home is still in its fund-raising stages, Father Latus added.

Beverly pointed out that Benincasa was St. Catherine of Siena's maiden name, and that her husband thought it would be a fitting choice for the hospice. She added that her husband hoped that Benincasa would serve to lighten the burdens of loneliness and pain so many people experience when faced with death.

In addition to his wife, Beverly, Deacon Clark is survived by his mother, Marion Clark; his children Michaelle (Matt) Rickett, Kristin (Christopher) Marcott, Andre, Anne, Thomas, Matthew, Brigid and John; granddaughter Alexandria Marcott; mother-in-law Michelina Vassallo; his brothers Edwin and Richard; his sisters Sister Nancy Clark, SSJ, and Carol (Daniel) Cash; and many friends and relatives. Deacon Clark was pre-deceased by his son, Gary Jr.

A Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark at St. Catherine's on Wednesday, Oct. 11. Interment took place at White Haven Memorial Park.

Memorial contributions should be sent to Benincasa Hospice, 26 Mendon-Ionia Road, Mendon, N.Y. 14506.

J. Beuerlein; ex-journalist

John Frederick Beuerlein Sr., a former reporter for such newspapers as the *Buffalo Evening News*, the *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, and the *Catholic Courier*, died Tuesday, Sept. 26, 1996, at his Mount Morris home. He was 80.

Beuerlein, who was named Mount Morris Citizen of the Year in 1982, attended St. Patrick's School and the Mount Morris Central School.

A store clerk for more than 41 years at Craig Developmental Center in Sonyea until he retired in 1977, Beuerlein was noted for his civic activities, most notably his volunteer fire-fighting. Over the years, he served in such positions as Livingston County fire coordinator, president of the Western N.Y. Fireman's Association, chaplain of the Livingston County Fire Association, and assistant chief of the Active Hose Company.

Beuerlein also served as a Mount Morris Village trustee and as a member of the historical societies of both the town and Livingston County.

A Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated at St. Patrick's on Thursday, Sept. 28. Interment took place at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Mount Morris.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Active Hose Company, Mount Morris Fire Hall, Mount Morris, N.Y. 14510, or to the Blue Cross Medical Mission Society, 10 West 17th St., New York, N.Y., 10114-0011.

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Faith in
Ministry



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