

CONTINUED...

Deacons

Continued from page 1

coming more and more important to parishes. People see the deacon as a liturgical figure, and don't ever see that that's not supposed to be his calling," said Deacon Holmes, who serves as diocesan Director of Deacon Personnel and Chaplaincy Services.

To better define deacons and their roles, Deacon Holmes has organized the first-ever permanent deacons' convocation for this diocese, for June 14-16 at Watson Homestead in Painted Post. Deacon Holmes has invited all 87 active diocesan permanent deacons along with the five men scheduled to be ordained on June 8 at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Deacon Taub is scheduled to be the convocation's keynote speaker, and Bishop Matthew H. Clark also will give a presentation. The workshops will include "The Deacon as Counselor," "The Deacon as President" and "Celebrating Our Stories." In addition, the deacons' wives will conduct their own "Celebrating Our Stories" workshop at the convocation.

The convocation will unite people who operate under the same title but perform a diverse set of duties. In addition to parish work, permanent deacons in this diocese channel their efforts toward the inner-city poor; hospitals and nursing homes; alcohol and drug rehabilitation; prisoners; and migrant workers.

The key link in this wide variety of outreach, Deacon Steve Graff noted, is service to those in need.

"The guidelines for restoration of the diaconate made it very clear that it was restored for social justice and social ministry," said Deacon Graff, director of diaconate formation at St. Bernard's Institute and secretary of the National Association of Diaconate Directors.

Holmes noted that deacons such as himself carry full-time paid diocesan positions, and that other deacons are paid staff members at parishes. Yet he stressed that the typical deacon performs a volunteer ministry from 10 to 20 hours weekly.

"We don't prepare (deacons) for employment," Holmes commented.



Conversely, a deacon's past experience can also make that person an ideal candidate for key employment positions in the church. For instance, Deacon Michael Mahoney served as temporary administrator at St. Columba/St. Patrick Parish in Caledonia and Mumfords for part of 1989. Next month, Deacon Mahoney will become pastoral administrator at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Scottsville. He is the first deacon in the diocese to assume the role of permanent pastoral administrator.

"Deacons could be called upon in any number of ways, depending on their gifts and abilities," remarked Deacon Mahoney, who currently serves at St. Stephen's Church in Geneva. "It can run the whole gamut, from one who is pastoral administrator to one who is in ministry with people in the streets."

Deacon Mahoney's new position brings up another key aspect of the diaconate. While he will be performing several pastoral duties in his roles as both administrator and deacon, he is not the equivalent of a pastor or priest. The chief difference lies within the administering of sacraments: A deacon can only officiate at marriages and baptisms.

Furthermore, the Diocese of Rochester's mission statement for the diaconate stresses that sacramental ministry was never the top priority to begin with.

"The major time commitment of the deacon should be (the) primary role of service, within or outside the parochial context," the statement reads. "It is from this role of service that the liturgical ministry springs."

Taub said that service ministry is, perhaps, the most significant manner in which deacons can help offset the current shortage of men and women religious. Ironically, he remarked, this development

is a reversal of the trend that eliminated deacons from the Catholic Church in the fifth and sixth centuries, when a proliferation of priests and nuns in service duties led to cessation of the diaconate.

"I would use the words 'renaissance' or 'rebirth,'" Taub said in describing the deacons' role in the modern church.

The importance of this role is reflected in the level of education required for the diaconate. According to Deacon Graff, permanent deacons in the Rochester diocese must possess master's degrees or graduate certificates in theology, or equivalent degrees. Most of the required courses are offered through St. Bernard's Institute.

Because of the time commitment involved, both in preparation and subsequent ministry, Deacon Graff stated the diaconate is not for everyone.

"There is a limited number of people who would want to commit to school for four years and then commit their lives to a volunteer ministry," he said.

At the same time, he said that the diocesan community's current demand for deacons is far outweighing the supply.

"John (Holmes) tells me that we're meeting only one-third of the requests for deacons in a given year," Deacon Graff said.

One change that would certainly create a larger pool of candidates is to include women in the diaconate. And, based on a recent report by the Canon Law Society of America, no canonical statement prohibits this possibility.

According to the Catholic News Service, the report stated that ordaining women deacons and ordaining them priests were separate issues. In addition, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith issued a statement in November saying the ban on women priests was infallible, yet the Vatican has not ruled out the possibility of women deacons.

Deacon Graff, for one, is encouraged by this development.

"If, indeed, the diaconate is the sacramental representation of service ministry of the church, then the women who have carried out so much of the service outreach of the church would be a natural for the diaconate," he said.

Bishop Clark will ordain five men into diaconate

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will ordain five permanent deacons into the diaconate on Saturday, June 8, 1996. The ordination will take place at 10:30 a.m. at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Being ordained as permanent deacons are:

Charles R. Dupont, a parishioner at St. Theodore's Church in East Rochester, has performed field education at Mount Carmel House, St. Bridget's Church and Bethany House.

Joseph Fitz H. Glasgow, a parishioner in Rochester's Roman Catholic Community of the 19th Ward. He has performed field education in the 19th Ward cluster.

Francis Bernard Haber, a parishioner at St. Mary of the Lake Church in Watkins Glen. He has performed field education with the Cornell Catholic Community, Elmira Psychiatric Institute and Family Camp, and has also worked with families of divorced and separated adults.

Raymond R. Mielczarek, a parishioner at Rochester's Church of the Annunciation. He has performed field education at Hillside Children's Center, Bethany House and Catherine McAuley Housing.

Thomas Schrage, a parishioner at Brockport's Church of the Nativity. He has performed field education at Faith House and has also performed ministry with migrant workers.

In addition, **Peter Michael DeWitt** is being ordained as a transitional deacon. A parishioner at St. Ignace of Montis of Assisi Parish, he is scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood May 31, 1997. He served his intern year, 1994-95 at St. Louis Church in Pittsford, and is entering his final year of studies at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto.

CATHOLIC COURIER CLASSIFIEDS

GENERAL

Announcements

ADOPTIONS The Catholic Courier does not publish adoption advertising. To obtain a list of agencies that serve birth mothers and adoptive parents, call 716-328-4340. Agencies wishing to be included on this list may send information to the Catholic Courier.

Business Opportunities

\$35,000 - \$50,000 EARNINGS POTENTIAL Home Typists, PC Users Needed 1-800-304-4473 ext. T1713

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

SECRETARY: Catholic Schools Office. Secretarial support for multiple managers, establish & maintain databases, develop communication materials. Excellent communication skills, demonstrated computer and desk top publishing skills a must. Associate's degree in Secretarial Science with a minimum 3-5 years experience. Starting \$7.76/hr., full benefits. Resumes by June 7, 1996 to: Human Resources, Diocese of Rochester, 1150 Buffalo Road, 14624. EOE

MAINTENANCE OF GROUNDS Apply in person. Brighton Nursing Home, 1919 Elmwood Ave., Rochester.

EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted

FACTORY DIRECT: America's newest, best and fastest growing business concept. Work at home, low-risk, high-income potential. Call now for free information. 1-800-640-8352.

SECRETARY 24 HRS/WK 10 mos./yr. Computer skills, flexibility. Mercy Prayer Center. 716-473-6893 (9-3).

Wanted to Buy

Marlyn's Antiques
Top cash paid for old wood furniture, clocks, glass and china, sterling, crocks, quilts, etc. One item or complete household. We make house calls.
647-2480

PROPERTY

Apartments Unfurnished

MIDTOWN MANOR APARTMENTS FOR AGE 50 AND OLDER. Convenient Downtown Location, walk to shopping. On a direct busline. Studio \$299 One Bedroom \$359 All utilities included. Section 8 accepted. Monthly Maintenance Services 475 East Broad St. 546-3650

Automobiles

WANTED TO BUY Good used car. 1985 or newer at fair price. Call Al at 716-323-1007.

SERVICES

Auto Repair

Alan's Auto Reconditioning
Complete Professional Workmanship

INTERIOR:
Shampoo • Carpets & Seats • Complete Carpet, Windows • Scotchguard

Washing • Detailing • Waxing • Polishing • Buffing • Window Treatments

MOTOR/ENGINE:
Diagnose • Clean

Call Alan Feehey (716) 235-8978 Monday-Sunday

Appliance Repair

We Make House Calls

SEW & VAC REPAIR CTR
724 Winton Rd. N.
716-482-6111

Electricians

NOLAN ELECTRIC
FOR ALL YOUR ELECTRICAL NEEDS
Serving Rochester & Surrounding Areas
Licensed & Fully Insured
716-292-1538

Financial Services

APPROVED AUTO LOANS
Bad credit/no credit, no problem, no hassle. Call 1-800-541-2212.

SERVICES

Masonry

AMERICAN MASONRY & CHIMNEY
CHIMNEY SERVICE
ALL MASONRY WORK
865-4170 663-7360

Moving & Hauling

K-D Moving and Storage Inc.
Experience in office, household moving and deliveries
Big or Small, We Do Them All
473-6610 or 473-4357

Painting & Wallcovering

SPECIALIZING IN REPAIRS OF OLDER HOMES
Interior/exterior painting, garages, window glazing, porches, etc. Basement walls repaired and waterproofed. Homes power washed, gutter cleaning, driveway sealing, small jobs welcome. Senior discounts. Free Estimates.
AL MEYVIS, JR.
323-2876 • 392-4435

Home Improvement

AL MEYVIS SR. Brick step & basement repairs, sidewalks, etc. 35 yrs. exp. Reasonable.
716-323-1007.

DeCan Home Care

Kitchen & Bath, Power Washing, Basements, Family Rooms, Garage Storage Lofts, Painting, Carpentry
(716) 426-6127

SERVICES

Plumbing

CASSIDY Plumbing and Heating
• Licensed, Bonded
• Bathroom Remodeling
• No Service Charges
• Free Estimates
• Senior Citizen Discount
11 Comfort St. Rochester, NY 232-2000

Roofing Siding & Gutters

GUTTER CLEANING FULLY INSURED
Call **MONROE GUTTER CLEANING**
533-2260 or 334-0701

BOWMAN ROOFING & SIDING CO.

Established 1912
• Roof Repairs • Siding
• Replacement Windows
• Seamless Aluminum Gutters
• Gutter Cleaning
671-3270 671-2912

To Advertise in the Courier Classifieds, call (716) 328-4340