

DIOCESAN NEWS

Ordination unites deacons with diverse talents

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — The group includes a doctor, a retired teacher, a native of Guyana, a former engineering manager, a Total Quality Management coordinator and a future priest.

As of last weekend, though, all six men also own a common title: deacon.

Ranging in age from 41 to 76, five men were ordained by Bishop Matthew H. Clark Saturday, June 8, at Sacred Heart Cathedral as permanent deacons in the Diocese of Rochester. In addition, 38-year-old Peter de Bellis was ordained as a transitional deacon, a step in the process leading to ordination as a priest.

The ordinations raises the total number of active diocesan permanent deacons to 92. Deacon de Bellis, the only current transitional deacon, is scheduled to be ordained a priest May 31, 1997. Permanent deacons, on the other hand, perform many priestly duties but are only permitted to administer the sacraments of marriage and baptism. Their primary focus is on a ministry of service.

Complete with a packed church and vibrant music, last Saturday's proceedings provided an abundance of joyfulness, Deacon de Bellis acknowledged.

"It's like a marriage ceremony. You have the sacrament, but also the participation with family and friends," Deacon de Bellis remarked.

Meanwhile, Deacon Charles R. Dispenza was still struggling to grasp that his long-awaited ordination day had finally arrived.

"It's such a beautiful feeling. I look at the mirror and I can't believe it, I just can't believe it," Deacon Dispenza, 71, ex-



Judy Sanchez/
At a Mass June 8 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Bishop Matthew H. Clark ordained one transitional and five permanent deacons for the Diocese of Rochester. Above, the candidates prostrate themselves in an act of humble prayer. Below, the bishop lays hands on the head of one candidate, signifying the conferral of the Holy Spirit.

claimed.

Deacon Dispenza, a former high-school English teacher, entered the diocesan diaconate program following the death of his wife, June, in 1991. He noted that his ordination, in many ways, enables him to realize his childhood goal of becoming a priest.

For Deacon Raymond Mielcarek, 61, the call to holy orders occurred during adulthood. The process began, he recalled, when he traveled to Third World countries as part of



his duties as engineering manager for Harris Corporation.

"I saw the poverty. Then I found that a lot of the same things were happening here in this country—maybe to a lesser degree, but they were still happening," he said.

Deacon Mielcarek is currently a transportation coordinator for the Jewish Home of Rochester.

Deacon Francis Haber, 63, looks forward to performing diaconate min-

istry while also continuing his work as an anesthesiologist for Arnot-Ogden Medical Center in Elmira.

"I'd been very much aware that the priests in the diocese had been hard pressed to do all the things they'd been called to do, especially one-on-one," Deacon Haber said. "My primary concern is working with people who have needs requiring personal attention."

Deacon Joseph Fitz H. Glasgow, 76, is another proponent of hands-on ministry in the community. He moved to Rochester in 1989 from Guyana, South America, and currently serves as parish visitor for St. Monica's Church in Rochester's Roman Catholic Community of the 19th Ward cluster.

"I enjoy meeting people," Deacon Glasgow said. "You meet people of different types and with different kinds of stories, and it gets you thinking, 'What can I do next?'"

Deacon Thomas Schrage, 41, draws similarities between the diaconate and his objectives as a Total Quality Management facilitator at Eastman Kodak Company. (Total Quality Management is a system by which management empowers employees in striving for continuous improvement.)

Both roles, he said, involve "getting back to people, and seeing how great people can be when they unleash the gifts that God gives them," he remarked.

Deacon Schrage added that his ordination fulfills a spiritual longing that he had struggled to identify.

"I'd been searching for something my entire life, and it wasn't until I started studying for the diaconate that I felt I was finally home," he said.

Hamlin parishioner bikes for breast cancer

By Kathleen Schwar
Staff writer

Since the Sept. 8, 1995, death of his wife, Ruth, due to breast cancer, Michael Fahey of Holley has barely allowed himself time to grieve. He's been planning his June 15-July 31 coast-to-coast bike trip to raise money for breast cancer research.

His goal is to raise \$10 for each of 2,992 miles.

The cancer that killed his wife when she was 48 changed their lives during the 2½ years she suffered with it. The couple had planned a bike trip to her hometown of Northfield, Ohio, but that never took place. Fahey had managed to warm his wife up to the idea on a recent 25th anniversary trip to Montreal where the two rode tandem around the city.

Ruth (nee Brogdan) met Fahey when she was vacationing at Cayuga Lake in the mid-1960s. After marrying, the couple lived in Auburn for a year. Then they moved to the Rochester area. Both served on the parish council at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Hamlin, which Fahey chaired a few years ago.

A nurse practitioner and women's health specialist, Ruth was not exactly surprised when she discovered a suspicious lump — her mother survived breast cancer following radiation treatments and

her grandmother died from breast cancer.

"She was very careful," Fahey, 54, said of his wife.

However, the cancer was a fast-spreading kind, defying radiation, chemotherapy, a lumpectomy and a mastectomy. His wife had seven vertebrae removed and plates put in the back of her spine; she was diagnosed with a brain tumor although radiation put a stop to that, he said.

"We kept fighting the battles but losing the war," Fahey said.

New York's cold weather took such a toll as well on his wife, that the Faheys thought of moving to the Virgin Islands. They never did, but to honor that dream Fahey buried his wife there, on a beach at St. Croix.

"How can we tell people to continue to be aware of what is going on?" Fahey said. "Breast cancer has such a great death toll on women. We have to be aware and work to do what we can to stop this. It is rampant, really."

The American Cancer Society estimates that 600 women in Monroe County are diagnosed each year with breast cancer. One woman dies every 12 minutes in the country from breast cancer; 150 women die from it every year in Monroe County, according to Terry Kip, executive director of the ACS Monroe County Unit.

Next to lung cancer, breast cancer is the deadliest form of cancer for women.

As of June 5, Fahey, a real-estate broker also working at Sun TV in Greece, had collected about \$2,000 in pledges and \$2,000 cash, mostly from individuals from his church and elsewhere, and from Kiwanis clubs. On June 13, USAir flew him and his daughter Shari, 23, to the West Coast, where they planned to leave from Newport, Ore., and bike U.S. 20 together to Chicago.

From Chicago, Fahey will bike alone across Indiana into Northfield in northeast Ohio, down into West Virginia, and end his journey in Washington, D.C. He planned to camp along the way but welcomed support, placing his route on the Internet.

Donations are being made payable to the ACS with a note they are for the "Coast to Coast" ride. They may be sent either to Fahey at 2273 County Line Road, Holley, NY 14470, or to the ACS, 1400 Winton Road North, Rochester, NY 14609.

"He has done a great job," Kip said. "This is a wonderful tribute to his wife."



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Appointments

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has named Father William Spilly as pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Humboldt St., Rochester, effective June 25.

Father Spilly has been pastor of the Corning-Painted Post Roman Catholic Community since 1990. From 1984 to 1990, he served as pastor of Cayuga Team Ministry, a cluster in Cayuga County.

Bishop Clark also announced the following parochial vicar assignments, effective June 25:

Father Richard Shatzel, Our Mother of Sorrows Church, Greece, from pastor of St. Philip Neri Church, Rochester.

Father Stanley Kacprzyk, St. John the Evangelist Church, Ridge Road West, Greece, from parochial vicar, Church of the Good Shepherd, Henrietta.

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