

FEATURE

Cornell to hold career/vocation day for Catholics

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Teresa Nam, a second-year graduate student at Cornell University in Ithaca, defines career success a little differently than most people.

"I'm trying not to think of myself, but to help others," said the 23-year-old Catholic who is pursuing a master's degree in environmental engineering.

To help her decide what direction she should take after college, Nam plans to attend a "Church Career and Vocation Fair" at Cornell, aimed at young adults like herself who seek careers either inside

or outside the church that are based on serving others.

The career fair will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 9, in Anabel Taylor Hall, at Central Avenue and Campus Road. The fair is free and open to the public. Mass will be celebrated at noon and at 5 p.m.

Workshops at the event will explore married life, single life, religious life, the priesthood, the permanent diaconate, foreign missions, parish administration, campus ministry, finance and development ministry, ministry of the word, social justice work, youth ministry, prison ministry and music ministry. The fair is sponsored

by the Cornell Catholic Community

Diane M. Schafer, program assistant for the community, said a similar event held by Cornell a decade ago when she was an undergraduate student inspired her to seek a master's degree in religious education. Many of today's students are no different from her, she said.

"We know of students who have interest in alternative careers to the corporate world," she said.

Sister Patricia Schoelles, SSJ, president of St. Bernard's Institute in Rochester, and a *Catholic Courier* columnist, will serve as the event's keynote speaker. Sister Schoelles said she'll focus on three main points in her speech.

First, she said, she'll talk about the fact that baptism calls all Christians — not just the ordained — to serve the Lord.

"We like to think of baptism as a cosmic insurance policy," she said. "You won't go to limbo. You won't go to hell. But it's not. It's a charge."

That charge to all Catholics to serve God became clear during the Second Vatican Council, she said, highlighting her second main point. The council stressed that lay Catholics need to help the church build up the kingdom of God, she said.

"God so loved the world, he sent his only son," she said. "Today, God so loves the world, he sends us. In our career choice, everyone has got to say 'What am I doing to serve the world?'"

Young Adult

MONTHLY FEATURE



Third, Sister Schoelles said she would encourage young adults to consider the ordained ministries, the religious life or service to the church in lay ministry as a way of serving God.

As for her own choice of service, Nam has made plans to travel to the West African nation of Burkina Faso for three years as volunteer in a program sponsored by the Mennonite Central Committee, based in Akron, Pa. In Burkina Faso, Nam will work on water treatment in areas where clean water is a luxury. She doesn't know if she wants to spend her life serving the poor through her work, but she's willing to try it out, she said.

"Right now it's a youthful infatuation," she said. "But I would suspect that if I do enjoy it, it could be a lifelong career."

Calendar of young adult events

A number of events for young adults are planned in the upcoming weeks.

• On Saturday, March 1, the Strasburgh Planetarium, 657 East Ave., Rochester, will host a laser rock show for young adult Catholics and their friends. The show will begin at 10:15 p.m. Those attending are asked to come early so all can get tickets to the show.

• On Sunday, March 23, a mini-retreat for young adults will be held at St. Mary's Church, 15 St. Mary's Place, Rochester, from 1 to 4 p.m. There is no charge, but bring money if you would like to go out to dinner afterward. Also bring a pillow to sit on and a snack or beverage to share.

The retreat and laser show gathering, sponsored by the Young Adult planning Committee, are open to all young adults in the diocese. To register, or for more in-

formation, call Karen Rinefield at 716/328-3228, ext. 255, or 1-800-388-7177, ext. 255.

• New York State Family Court Judge Anthony J. Sciolino will talk about "Ministering in the Workplace — A Day in Family Court" on Friday, Feb. 28, at the Catholic Leadership Forum's monthly luncheon from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Harro East, 400 Andrews St., in Rochester. The luncheon is \$12. To make reservations, call Mary Consler, 716/328-3228, ext. 281, or 1-800-388-7177.

• Micaela Gutierrez, a member of the young adults' group at St. Mary's Church, 15 St. Mary's Place in downtown Rochester, will perform solo harpsichord music in the church on Sunday, March 2, at 3:30 p.m. Admission is free, but donations will be accepted.

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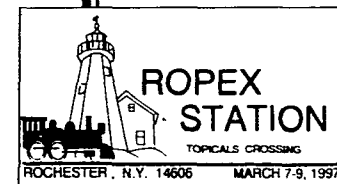
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