

DIOCESAN NEWS

School aide faces charges of rape

A 24-year-old teacher's aide at St. Monica's School in Rochester was arraigned March 31, in Brighton Town Court on charges of having sex with a 14-year-old girl who had attended the school.

Norvelle "Derwonne" Dinkins was charged with two counts of third-degree rape and endangering the welfare of a child, according to Sgt. Tom McGrath, investigative coordinator for the Brighton police.

McGrath said Dinkins allegedly had sex twice with the girl at his Brighton residence, located in an apartment complex, sometime in January and on Feb. 12. The alleged sex was consensual, McGrath said, but under state law, an adult can be charged with rape for having sex with a minor under the age of 17.

On March 27, Dinkins was suspended without pay from his position at St. Monica's pending further investigation, according to Sister Mary Ann Binsack, RSM, diocesan director of Faith Development Ministry, which oversees the Catholic schools office.

Sister Binsack added that police told her none of the alleged activity took place on school grounds.

"To our knowledge, his work with the children has always been satisfactory at the school," she said.

Sister Mary Marvin, RSM, principal of St. Monica's, said she and her staff were surprised that Dinkins had been charged with a crime.

"He's been here four years, and he's been wonderful," she said.

Sister Marvin added that she did not know who the girl was, only that she is currently attending another school.

McGrath said Dinkins will appear in court again on April 22. If convicted, he faces up to four years in prison.

McGrath said Brighton police learned of Dinkins' alleged behavior with the girl from Rochester police who had been contacted by the girl's aunt. The girl's aunt contacted police after her niece told her she had been dating an older man. Rochester police then turned the matter over to Brighton police, he said.

- Rob Cullivan



Kerry Huller



Prayers for life

More than 150 people, including about 20 priests and deacons, gathered March 28 for a prayer service/Stations of the Cross in reparation for abortion. Organized by the Pro-Life Planning Committee, the day began with Father John Firpo presiding over the service at St. Helen's Church, Rochester. Participants then drove to the White Spruce Boulevard area and enacted the Living Stations of the Cross along the streets of Henrietta, finally stopping in front of the office of Dr. Morris Wortman, who performs abortions. This was the ninth consecutive Good Friday the committee sponsored the event. (Above) Dan Lill stands with the cross and banner that were carried during the march. Father Roy Kiggins (left) carries the cross during the enactment of the stations.

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Diocese hires HR director, veteran of health-care field

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has appointed William Olsen of Irondequoit as director of diocesan Human Resources.

Olsen's appointment was effective March 24. He replaces Patrice Beadle, who resigned her position as director last December.

In his new position, Olsen will oversee personnel recruitment and placement throughout the 12-county diocese; benefits administration; performance appraisals; employee relations; personnel records; and training and development for diocesan staff.

Olsen will also develop and revise personnel policies and convene the diocesan Personnel Commission.

In a press statement, Father John M. Mulligan, diocesan vicar general, expressed confidence in the diocese's new human resources director.

"He brings a wealth of experience in guiding the human resource aspects of institutions undergoing change," Father Mulligan said. "His dedication, enthusiasm, experience and collaborative work style will be a real asset as the diocese embarks upon strategic planning for the new millennium."

Father Mulligan said Olsen was part of a pool of candidates interviewed last year when the diocese was looking for someone to replace Mary Kessler, who resigned in

June 1996. When Kessler's successor, Beadle, left in December, the diocese contacted Olsen, he said.

Before joining the diocese, Olsen had spent the last 15 months as director of organizational effectiveness for the Greater Rochester Health System, a 15-member umbrella corporation of hospitals, agencies and foundations, he said.

Prior to working at GRHS, Olsen worked in human resources at St. Ann's Nursing Home in Irondequoit for 10 months. He also worked in human resources at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester for 18 years.

"I've been in health care for 21 years and felt the change would be beneficial for myself," Olsen said of joining the diocese.

A 1968 graduate of Allegheny College in Pennsylvania, Olsen has also worked in journalism, as a writer and editor for the Tribune Publishing Company in Meadville, Pa., and as managing editor for Wolfe Publications in the Rochester area.

Olsen holds a management certificate from the Rochester Institute of Technology, and is currently pursuing a master's degree in public administration at the State University of New York College at Brockport.

Olsen and his wife, Beverly, have three sons, ages 18 to 22.

- Rob Cullivan