

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Man accused of taking \$18K from Tier agency

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Daniel S. Clarke, former coordinator of the Gateways Community Living Program of Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier, has been charged with stealing more than \$18,000 from the residential program.

Clarke, 44, was arraigned Sept. 4 in Elmira City Court before Judge Thomas E. Ramich, and charged with third-degree grand larceny. The charge followed a year-long investigation by the Elmira Police Department.

Clarke entered a plea of not guilty, and is scheduled to appear in Chemung County Court on Sept. 26 before Judge Peter C. Buckley. Clarke, a former resident of Sayre, Pa., now resides in Scottsdale, Ariz.

According to Anthony Barbaro, Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier executive director, his agency notified the Chemung County district attorney's office in August 1996 that \$18,107.77 was missing from Gateways, which provides residential services to clients recovering from mental illness. Through contracted funds from the state Office of Mental Health, the program sponsors subsidized apartment rentals based on income eligibility.

Barbaro said a subsequent police inves-

tigation indicated that Clarke had allegedly not been turning in cash rent payments he collected from clients. The investigation began after Clarke and an assistant had allegedly marked some clients as being delinquent with payments, but the clients produced receipts showing they had indeed paid their rent.

"The course of the police investigation led everything toward him," Barbaro said.

Barbaro added that Clarke and the assistant were suspended without pay when the investigation began Aug. 30, 1996. Both were fired within a month. Barbaro declined to name the assistant, saying the person's identity is being protected as part of a plea bargaining arrangement.

Barbaro said Clarke's alleged involvement was surprising because he had been an exemplary employee from the time he was hired by Catholic Charities in 1988. Clarke was promoted from resident counselor to Gateways coordinator in 1992.

"It was shocking," Barbaro remarked. "The degree of trust that goes into an agency like this is very high — not only to colleagues, but also to the people they serve. What makes it so devastating is that we never saw this coming from Dan Clarke."



Greg Francis/Staff Photographer

## Healthy hello

Bishop Matthew H. Clark visits with Claire Siegrist, 9 months old, and her mom, Dr. Stephanie Siegrist, at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester after officiating at a Mass Sept. 12 in honor of the hospital's 140th anniversary. The celebration included the Mass and a reception.

Barbaro added that he doesn't seek jail time for Clarke, but is looking for "every penny" to be returned and for Clarke to perform "an appropriate amount of community service."

As Clarke's Sept. 26 court date ap-

proaches, his attorney, John DeMarco of Rochester, said that "we are considering the alternatives that are available at this point."

DeMarco declined to elaborate on what those alternatives were.

## Obituary

### Father William F. Gaynor, 88; served as pastor, Air Force chaplain

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

Father William F. Gaynor, a former pastor and U.S. Air Force chaplain, died the morning of Sept. 12. A priest-in-residence at St. Alphonsus Church, Auburn, Father Gaynor was 88.

"He was just a great friend to priests, and a great friend to laity," said Father Foster P. Rogers, pastor of St. Alphonsus. "I often called him a 'prince of the church.'"

A native Auburnian, Father Gaynor attended the former St. Aloysius Church. He graduated from Auburn High School, then attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries in Rochester. He was ordained a priest June 15, 1935, at the former St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rochester.

Father Gaynor served as assistant pastor at the parishes of St. Mary's, Elmira, St. Agnes, Avon, St. Patrick's, Elmira, and St. Mary's, Canandaigua.

Father Gaynor also served as pastor of the following parishes: St. Patrick's, Cato

and St. Thomas, Red Creek, from 1957 to 1958; St. Felix, Clifton Springs, 1958 to 1960; St. Mary's, Ontario, 1960 to 1970; and St. Patrick's, Moravia, 1970 to 1976. After retiring in 1976, he assisted at various parishes, including St. Alphonsus.

Father Gaynor served in the U.S. Air Force as a chaplain from 1941 to 1969, and was on active duty from 1941 to 1947. Romulus native Richard O'Marra recalled the "pleasant" chaplain who befriended him when he came to the U.S. Army Air Corps base in Boise, Idaho, during the Second

World War.

"It was awful nice to have someone like that when you're away from home, and who's from your home," said O'Marra, who currently lives in Churchville.

A longtime friend, Peg Murphy, a parishioner at St. Mary's, Auburn, said Father Gaynor often fondly recalled his military service.

"Next to God was his love of the service," she said. "Anytime you got him talking about the Air Force, he could talk for hours."

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