

DIOCESAN NEWS

Bishop to ordain five to diaconate May 30

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Bishop Matthew H. Clark will ordain four men as permanent deacons and one man, Steve Lape, a transitional deacon at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 30, in Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park.

The four men to be ordained to the permanent diaconate are Thomas J. Jewell, George S. Kozak, Edward Mathis and Anthony J. Sciolino.

Lape, 32, grew up in Gates, and attended St. Theodore's Church. He will work at St. Ambrose Church, Irondequoit, this summer after completing his third year of theological training at St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto. He will return to Toronto in late August.

Prior to deciding to become a priest, Lape worked in commercial radio and part-time as a "mobile" disc jockey, playing parties and other functions. He will be ordained a diocesan priest in May or June 1999.

Lape said he enjoys parish work, and especially likes working with the elderly. He noted that he has worked in nursing homes, and made an effort to help widows and widowers realize their lives had meaning even though their spouses were gone.

"I always joke with my friends that I was born 20 years too late," Lape said. "I find I'm very comfortable working with the elderly. They seem to really appreciate the sense of someone paying attention and making them feel wanted."

Jewell, 38, has been director of worship

at St. Helen's Church, Gates, since 1992. His wife Kim serves as the parish's choir director. After ordination, Jewell will continue to serve at St. Helen's.

The Jewells live in Rochester, and have one daughter. They also direct the Contemporary Music Group at their home parish of Holy Cross Church, and for the campus ministry program at St. John Fisher College, Rochester, as well.

Jewell has also worked as a youth minister at St. Rita's Church in Webster, and on the staff of the diocesan offices of liturgy and urban services.

"I wanted to explore the calling to serve the church in a wider capacity," he said of becoming a deacon.

Kozak, 46, is a computer programmer at Cornell University, Ithaca. After ordination, he will serve as a deacon at Immaculate Conception Church in Ithaca. His wife Mary Ann is religious education coordinator for the parish, and they have three sons and two daughters.

"I'm especially interested in reaching out to the homebound and the sick," he said. "I think they get ignored a lot because they're not seen. I just feel these are people that really need to know the community is there and supports them."

Mathis, 57, of Caledonia, is a commercial sales engineer for Isaac Heating & Air Conditioning in Rochester. After ordination, he will serve a one-year internship in the deacon's chaplain office at Groveland Correctional Facility, where he did his summer ministry in 1997. Mathis attends St. Agnes Church, Avon, with his wife Regina and their four children. The couple al-



Greg Francis/Staff photographer

Monument dedicated

Cece Crawford, left, Fran Kovalcik and Vince Kovalcik gather around a monument dedicated May 24 "In Loving Memory of Unborn Children" at St. Christopher's Church, North Chili. Members of the parish council, of which Vince and Cece are members, saw a story on Right to Life monuments in the Knights of Columbus magazine *Columbian* and suggested the parish erect a monument. Father Bernard Dolien led the dedication. The monument was funded by donations from parishioners.

so had a son who died several years ago.

Mathis said he found he liked working with prisoners at Groveland last year, and felt serving them was a fulfillment of his call to the diaconate.

"If you want to meet the poor and disenfranchised, come to a prison," he said.

On the other hand, he noted, despite the fact that nearly half the inmates he meets are illiterate, they have nonetheless inspired him with their intelligence and insights.

"It's very seldom that I meet with a prisoner, and I don't learn something," Math-

is said.

Sciolino, 53, currently serves as a Monroe County family court judge. He and his wife Gloria have one daughter, and they belong to Church of the Transfiguration, Pittsford, where he will serve after ordination. All three serve as eucharistic ministers at the church, he said.

Sciolino said he saw his ordination as a deacon as a natural outgrowth of his work as a family court judge.

"I'm a public servant in the civil realm, and I'm going to be a public servant in the church realm," he said.

Obituary

Father Andrew Grzela, 58; ministered to diocesan Polish Catholics

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Father Andrew Grzela, a leading figure in the diocesan Polish Catholic community during the 1980s and 1990s, died of cancer at his Irondequoit home on May 19, 1998. He was two days shy of his 59th birthday.

Pastor of St. Thomas More Church in Brighton since June 1997, Father Grzela was a native of Torun, Poland. He was probably best known for shepherding St. Stanislaus Church in Rochester as pastor from 1984 to 1997. The priest had come to the parish as an associate pastor in 1981, and worked there during the same time Poland was convulsed by political and social changes, noted Kathy Urbanic, an active parishioner.

"He was both a missionary and an immigrant himself to this country," said Ur-



banic, who authored the 1991 book *Shoulder to Shoulder*, a history of Rochester's Polish community. "He understood what people went through who resettled here."

The priest worked with parishioners at St. Stanislaus to raise funds for Polish citizens then living under communist rule, she recalled, as well as helping Polish refugees resettle in Rochester. Urbanic added that Father Grzela enjoyed celebrating with his community at weddings and baptisms, but also had just the right touch with people during times of sorrow.

"He was incredibly warm and personal, a kindhearted, generous and very charm-

ing person," she said.

She recalled that he particularly enjoyed children, and established a raffle for them on Holy Saturday each year, when Polish Catholics bring food to be blessed to the church. She noted that the priest would give away baby chicks, rabbits, and, one year, lambs. However, she said with a laugh, he had to tone down the raffle a bit after parents gently expressed some concern to him about having to take home the animals.

Urbanic's sentiments were shared by Sister Ellen Galvin, SSJ, pastoral associate at St. Thomas More.

"He was very easy to work with," Sister Galvin said. "He was spontaneous, and very encouraging and affirming of every person's gifts on the staff."

Father Grzela was ordained in Poland in 1963, and served in various capacities in the diocese of Gniezo. In 1974, he became

a missionary to Papua New Guinea, a position he held throughout the 1970s before coming to Rochester. He was incardinated as a priest of the Diocese of Rochester in 1986.

Father Grzela is survived by his sister Lidia Kowalski; three nephews, Robert (Maria), Karol and Andrew Kowalski; and a cousin, Katarzyna Grzela-Juskiewicz.

His nephew, Robert Kowalski, called Father Grzela a "second father" who helped him when he moved to Rochester over a decade ago from Poland.

"He did a lot of good things for his community," Kowalski said. "He was open for people."

A Mass of Christ the High Priest was celebrated for Father Grzela on May 22, at St. Stanislaus. Bishop Matthew H. Clark celebrated his funeral Mass May 23, at St. Thomas More. Interment took place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester.

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