

DIOCESAN NEWS

Henrietta pastor becomes assistant at Corpus

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Father Michael Bausch, pastor of Good Shepherd Church in Henrietta, has been appointed as part-time assisting priest at Corpus Christi Church, effective Jan. 4.

According to Father Robert Ring, diocesan director of priest personnel, Father Bausch's tenure at Corpus Christi will last no longer than six months.

Father Bausch said he will preside at liturgies and coordinate Corpus Christi's hospital ministry. In addition, he said that he will "assist in the evaluation of Corpus Christi's extensive outreach ministries."

Father Bausch will remain pastor of Good Shepherd during this period, but with a limited amount of sacramental and administrative work. Sacramental duty at the Henrietta parish will be split among Fathers Ring and Bausch, and weekend assistant Father Robert Kennedy. Father Ring said that Father Bausch will return full-time to Good Shepherd as soon as his duty at Corpus Christi is completed.

At Corpus Christi, Father Bausch will assist Father Daniel McMullin, who was appointed pastor in October 1998. Father

McMullin replaced Father James B. Callan, who had been priest administrator at Corpus Christi from 1976 until his removal by Bishop Matthew H. Clark in September 1998 for violation of church law concerning women's roles, blessing of homosexual unions and intercommunion.

Father Ring explained that Father Bausch was assigned to Corpus Christi because the parish has been without a second priest since Father Enrique Cadena resigned as associate pastor in late October and took a leave of absence from the priesthood.

"To replace two priests is a huge task, and it's taken a while to assess what would be most helpful," Father Ring said. "It's become clear that Dan (McMullin) needs additional help."

Father Ring said that the diocese will seek a priest to assist Father McMullin after Father Bausch returns full-time to Good Shepherd.

"For the long-term, it would be helpful to find a priest to serve with Dan for longer than a six-month term," Father Ring said.

Father Ring said that Father Bausch is well-suited for Corpus Christi because "in

social ministry, he has handled a wide variety of circumstances." Father Bausch served as executive director of Southern Tier Social Ministry from 1983-85, and of the Catholic Family Center from 1985-88.

Father Bausch, pastor at Good Shepherd since 1993, said he's anxious to begin his duty at Corpus Christi.

"I was delighted to say yes, because of the need there," Father Bausch remarked.

Father Bausch added that he hopes to add stability, rather than more conflict, to the strife-torn parish.

"Just by my presence and participation and daily routines, hopefully some healing will happen," Father Bausch said.

Father McMullin did not return calls seeking comment.

In addition to the departures of Father Callan and Father Cadena, Corpus Christi pastoral associate Mary Ramerman was fired in October 1998 by a diocesan-appointed transition team. And in mid-December, six Corpus Christi staff members were fired by Tom Riley, a temporary parish director of operations who had been hired by the diocese less than one week earlier.

The turmoil at the parish has resulted in empty pews and dwindling collections. A July 12, 1998, parish bulletin reported that attendance at the previous week's liturgies was 2,207 and collections totaled \$14,074. For the weekend of Dec. 26-27, the figures were, respectively, 1,086 and \$5,866.

Ad condemns anti-gay violence

A Catholic pledge to end violence against gay and lesbian people, placed in the Dec. 30 *New York Times*, drew nearly 2,000 signatures including that of Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

The full-page, \$32,300 ad was sponsored by the Catholic peace group, Pax Christi USA, and New Ways Ministry, a national group based in Maryland that promotes dialogue on lesbian/gay issues in the church.

The ad follows the October murder of Matthew Shepard, 21, a gay University of Wyoming student in Laramie.

"Our Catholic faith in the nonviolent gospel of Jesus Christ moves us to speak," the pledge stated.

Bishop Clark said at a Dec. 29 press conference at the Pastoral Center that he signed the pledge "partly out of the urgency of statements of the Vatican that bishops do all in their power to speak against violence and discrimination toward gay and lesbian people."

The concern expressed in the pledge extends to "a mind-set and disposition against gay and lesbian people," he added.

The ad cited reports of 2,445 episodes of anti-gay harassment in U.S. cities in 1997. It also referred to a Catechism of

the Catholic Church statement that gay and lesbian people "must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity." It also referred to the U.S. bishops' 1994 pastoral letter "Confronting a Culture of Violence" in which discrimination was described as "slow-motion violence."

More than 150 Catholic organizations, including the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester Leadership Team and Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Institute Leadership Team, signed the pledge. The 25 endorsements from within the diocese included those from Corpus Christi Church, Father Edward L. Palumbos and Deacon Thomas J. Driscoll.

Francis DeBernardo, New Ways executive director, said that "it's a good sign that we were able to afford" the ad, because contributions signified concern of Catholics for gay and lesbian people. But also, he said, the fact nine bishops signed "shows more bishops are starting to be more vocal in their support."

"We have been getting many calls from people who have not known the Catholic Church was so supportive of gay and lesbian people," he said by phone from Mt. Rainier, Md.

— Kathleen Schwarz



Greg Francis/Staff Photographer

A reason to celebrate

Cross Bearer Dianne Cicero leads the procession into St. Patrick Church, Mt. Morris, Dec. 18 for a Mass celebrating the 125th anniversary of the dedication of the church building. Retired Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey presided, with Father Daniel J. Condon, pastor of the St. Patrick/Holy Angels cluster, concelebrating the Mass.

Obituaries

Br. Zettler; founding abbey member

Brother Quentin (David) Zettler, OCSO, a founding member of the Abbey of the Genesee in Piffard, died Nov. 13, 1998, at the abbey. He was 78.

One of 12 children, he was born Nov. 20, 1919, in Canton, Ohio. He served in the Second World War as a technical

sergeant and as an aircraft mechanic.

Following the war, Brother Zettler worked at a variety of occupations, and attended Ohio State University for two years. In 1950, he enrolled at St. Mary's Seminary in Kentucky, then entered Gethsemani Abbey in Kentucky, where he became a lay brother.

In 1951, Brother Zettler became a founding member of the Abbey of the Genesee. He served as the house maintenance man. He also worked at various times in the bakery, forest, farm, dairy and post office, and in his final years served as a porter.

According to a release from the abbey, "Those who were quiet enough to listen and hear him speak were deeply touched by his authentic love and genuine freedom as a child of God. At the root of his love for others, great and small, was his even deeper love for God."

The funeral Mass for Brother Zettler was celebrated Nov. 14 at the abbey.

Sister Reichart, SSJ; well-recognized, but kept common touch

Sister Florian Reichert, SSJ, 97, died at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, Pittsford, Nov. 16, 1998, after a short illness.

A Rochester native, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Francis Xavier Parish in 1919. She graduated from Nazareth Academy and held degrees from Nazareth College and Manhattanville Col-

lege of the Sacred Heart. She also attended the International School of Liturgy at the University of Windsor, Ontario, and the World Library of Sacred Music, Worcester, Mass.

"Sister Florian was a teacher, musician, poet, liturgist and writer. She was creative, versatile and challenging," a congrega-

Sister Fischette, SSJ; taught at many schools

Sister Mary Gerald Fischette, SSJ, a teacher at elementary schools in the dioceses of Rochester and Syracuse for more than 30 years, died Nov. 12, 1998, at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary in Pittsford. She was 82.

A Rochester native, Sister Mary Gerald graduated from Nazareth Academy and entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1934 out of St. Francis Xavier Parish. She earned degrees in education and English from Nazareth College.

Sister Mary Gerald taught at the following Rochester diocesan schools: Corpus Christi, St. Augustine, St. Bridget, Our Lady of Lourdes, Blessed Sacrament, Holy Apostles and Sacred Heart Cathe-

dral, all of Rochester; and St. Agnes in Avon. In addition, she taught at St. Paul School in Oswego, in the Diocese of Syracuse.

She was also a classroom assistant for seven years. Sister Mary Gerald retired to the Sisters of St. Joseph motherhouse in 1983 and moved to the convent infirmary in 1986.

Her funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 16 in the motherhouse chapel, with Msgr. William H. Shannon serving as celebrant. Interment was in the sisters' section of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Sister Mary Gerald is survived by a sister, Sister Clarice Fischette, SSJ; and nieces, nephews and cousins.

tional release stated. "Sister Florian was recognized on international, national and local levels, but was always first and foremost a Sister of St. Joseph who never lost the common touch."

She published three books of poetry: *Good Morning Blue*, *Eye of the Crocus* and *Bridegroom*, and a Mass in English, "God is Love." She also composed musical settings for Psalms including the small Psalm book, *Nine Old Testament Songs*. She was a member of the Rochester Poetry Society, a charter member of the North American Liturgical Conference, the Buffalo Chapter of the National Pastoral Musicians.

Sister Florian made a comparative study of the new forms and types of liturgy and liturgical music at several experimental centers, in Amsterdam, Utrecht and Nijmegen, Holland; Brussels and Louvain, Belgium; Augsburg and Trier, Germany; and Paris.

She is survived by nieces and nephews and her sisters in the congregation. Her funeral liturgy was celebrated Nov. 19 in the motherhouse chapel. Principal celebrant was Father John Robbins, CSB, assisted by Father Thomas Rosica, CSB. Several other priests attended.

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