

DIOCESAN NEWS

Educator sets sights on student health

By Kathleen Schwar
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — "Are any of you healthy?" Ginger Henrichs asked Mrs. Mary Gilligan's pre-K class at Holy Rosary School.

"Yeah!" the multitude shouted back. "I drink my juice," one child added.

They then listened to her read about the body as a "house" and good foods as the "building blocks."

Henrichs was still getting her feet wet as the WIN schools' first community health educator that Feb. 3 morning. While her job description is only evolving, she notes the possibilities are endless.

She could teach children directly or provide teachers with resources, she explained. She could visit homes. She could hold a health fair. She could connect families with health resources in the community. She could help families obtain health insurance.

"Who knows?" she said. "It's really a new position. I'm saying to the faculties, 'What can I do to help?'"

A \$10,000 one-year grant from the RASKOB Foundation for Catholic Activities will cover her salary, materials and administration. Henrichs, who began the job in mid-January, plans to spend one day a month at each of the six schools: Holy Rosary, St. Boniface, St. Monica's, Corpus Christi, St. Andrew's and Holy Family.

"Teachers and parents will know there is someone there who could attend to some of their needs, or be an avenue to point them to services they could take advantage of," said Sister Elaine Englert, SSJ, assistant superintendent for WIN programs for the diocese.

"I think she definitely will be an asset. She's another resource we can depend on,"



After reading a book to preschoolers at Holy Rosary School, Rochester, Feb. 3, Ginger Henrichs speaks to Supreme Hannah, 4, while Susan Nguyen listens in.

Greg Francis/Staff photographer

said Connie Izzo, psychologist at St. Monica's School. "Health issues certainly affect a lot of our families here, and in areas traditionally where a lot of us are uncomfortable. ... We'll have someone to step in and help us out and have credibility as a nurse."

Izzo mentioned sex education as one area where teachers have mentioned they would appreciate help.

In addition, Henrichs said, "Some of these kids have HIV and AIDS at home. I can educate them about communicable diseases and how some of these spread."

She plans to set up question boxes that students can use anonymously for questions about bodies, home, peer problems

or other concerns.

WIN schools currently are provided limited visits by a county school community health nurse and an LPN.

Although Henrichs has extensive experience as a nurse, her focus will be to educate. She also has been a social worker, and is director of family and community services for KATS (Kids Adjusting Through Support, a program for children facing illness or loss).

Between 53 and 98 percent of the students and their families in each of the six WIN schools live at or below the national poverty level, according to Sister Englert. Most live in families with a single head of household.

The addition of Henrichs provides a more complete package for a student's care, Sister Englert said. "The principal, psychologist and community health educator, with the teachers and parents, form a broad partnership. It takes a village to raise a child, and all of us in this day and age to raise a child in the city."

Obituary

Fr. McCarthy, former pastor

Father Charles Leo McCarthy, former pastor of St. Gabriel's Parish, Hammondsport, St. Patrick's Parish, Prattsburg, and St. Januarius Parish, Naples, died Feb. 7, 1999, following a long illness. He was 73.

Born to the late Charles and Mary (Mamie) McCarthy, Father McCarthy attended St. Monica's Church and School. He studied at St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, and was ordained to the priesthood June 3, 1950, at Sacred Heart Cathedral by Bishop James E. Kearney.

Over the next 18 years, Father McCarthy served as an assistant pastor at a number of parishes. In 1968 he was named pastor of St. Gabriel's and St. Patrick's. He remained at those parishes until he was appointed pastor of St. Januarius in 1978.

According to his sister, Susanne Stich of Chili, he enjoyed "his ability as a priest to be there when the people of his parish needed him. He was very understanding of the people."

In 1987, Father McCarthy left St. Januarius due to ill health. He served as a parochial vicar at Holy Rosary, Rochester, then as a temporary administrator at several parishes before retiring from active ministry in 1992.

Father McCarthy was predeceased by his parents and by sisters, Mary Wikoff and Catherine Thomas. In addition to Mrs. Stich and her husband John, he is survived by another sister, Eileen Richardson of High Point, N.C.; brother-in-law Richard Thomas of Pittsford; and 19 nieces and nephews.

The family requests that donations in Father McCarthy's name be made to St. Michael's Woodshop, 691 St. Paul Blvd., Rochester, 14605, or Genesee Region Home Care Hospice, 49 Stone St., Rochester, 14608.

— Lee Strong

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Obituary

Robert Kidera; Nazareth head

Robert A. Kidera, the first male president of Nazareth College, whose term ran from 1976 to 1984, died Jan. 31, 1999, following a sudden heart attack. He was 80 years old.

Mr. Kidera became president at Nazareth two years after the women's school had become a coeducational college. During his tenure, Nazareth's enrollment increased 33 percent, women's sports were upgraded to national standing, and men's sports began. He also oversaw the building of a soccer field, and expanded academic programs.

Stephen LaSalle, Nazareth's treasurer and vice president for finance, recalled that Mr. Kidera was a devoted family man, an excellent public speaker and a dedicated educator. Mr. Kidera connected well with college students because he had children of his own, LaSalle added.

"When I think of Bob Kidera, a smile comes to my face because he was always in high spirits," LaSalle said.

Mr. Kidera grew up on a farm in Cary, Ill. He changed the spelling of his name from Kvidera because so many people misspelled it. Mr. Kidera earned undergraduate degrees from Marquette University in Wisconsin before serving as a public relations officer in the U.S. Air Force. He then served as public relations director for Carnation Corp., a position he said he left because he couldn't get excited over a little can of milk.

Mr. Kidera held several positions in the



academic world, and was president of Sacred Heart University in Connecticut from 1971 to 1976. He also served as president of the Higher Education Center for Urban Studies during his tenure at Sacred Heart.

While president of Nazareth, Mr. Kidera also served on the boards of several organizations and businesses in the Rochester area.

Mr. Kidera is survived by his wife, Helen Kidera of Brighton; his daughters, Patty Malgieri of Brighton, Gerilyn Kidera of Alexandria, Va., and Judy Odell of Delmar, N.Y.; his three sons, Robert of Greece, David of Delmar, and Thomas of Brighton; a brother, Richard Kvidera of Cary; and 10 grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was held Feb. 4 at St. Louis Church, Pittsford. Interment was to take place at the convenience of the family. Nazareth College held a memorial Mass in the Vasile Alma Mater Chapel on Feb. 5.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Robert A. Kidera Scholarship Fund at Nazareth College, 4245 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14618.

— Rob Cullivan