

DIOCESAN NEWS

New vocations official seeks to 'get word out'

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Saying she hopes to vigorously "plant the seeds" for vocations, Patricia Finnerty began as the diocesan director of vocations awareness April 26.

Finnerty will promote the priesthood, the diaconate and religious orders, as well as such lay vocations within the church as pastoral administrators, pastoral associates, campus ministers, youth ministers and young adult ministers.

"We look at the vocations as a more broad topic than the priesthood," observed Bill Olsen, diocesan director of human resources.

Finnerty plans to collaborate with diocesan ministries, parishes and other faith communities to promote vocations. She will work directly with people who are discerning vocations, as well as parish staff who are providing education, mentoring and encouragement for those people.

Finnerty said that in her first year, a large chunk of her job will be devoted to promoting awareness of priestly vocations. By the end of that year, she plans to have in place awareness programs to include other types of vocations.

Finnerty said that she intends to visit parishes throughout the diocese, meeting with pastors as well as committees that focus on vocations. She is also willing to preach at weekend Masses, she added.

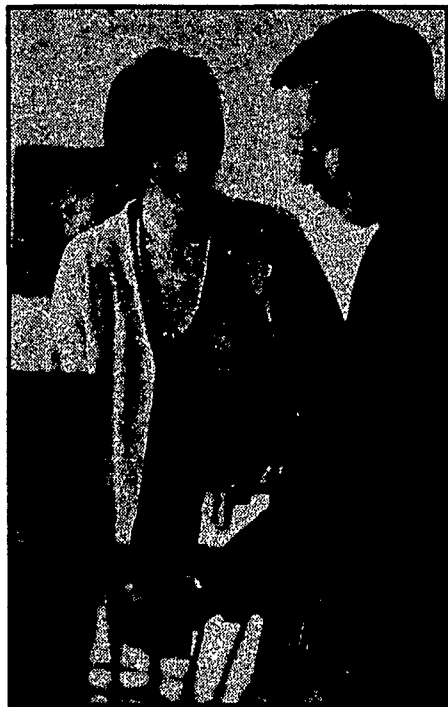
"Anything I can do to get the word out," Finnerty remarked.

In many cases, Finnerty noted, she will be the initial contact for people who are considering a vocation. From there, she will refer them to the appropriate vocations director within the diocese.

"I would see myself as the first step in the process," Finnerty said.

"It's more of a team approach for programs and follow-ups. She will not be involved in the formation," said Father John DeSocio, rector of Becket Hall, a preparatory program for young men who are considering the priesthood. Becket Hall is funding Finnerty's newly created position.

Finnerty said that she will target not only adults who may be in discernment, but al-



Greg Francis/Staff photographer
Patricia Finnerty, new diocesan director of vocations awareness, discusses vocational training materials with Father John DeSocio, rector of Becket Hall, Rochester, April 29.

so young children.

"It's important to start planting the seeds when they're young — first, second grade," Finnerty said. She added that in too many cases, a religious vocation is something that children "don't even think about."

Finnerty said she will also encourage parish staffs — including pastors — to enthusiastically promote vocations to their faith communities on a more regular basis.

"Even some priests are not-comfortable talking about vocations," Olsen remarked.

Finnerty said she expects that some people will be surprised to discover that the person in the role of vocations awareness director is not a priest or nun.

"I'd like people to have an open mind when I'm out in the community," Finnerty said. "I think I can add a different dimension as a female lay person, a mother who is active in my own church."

Finnerty, 36, is married and has two chil-



Toward Christian unity

From left, Bishop Matthew H. Clark and Episcopal Bishop William Burrill sing

with other church leaders May 3 at the beginning of the 36th National Workshop on Christian Unity at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Rochester. At left, John Dyett, a seminarian from Bexley Hall at Colgate Rochester Divinity School, and dancer Mary Glover from the Borinquen Dance Theater, Rochester, lead a procession from the hotel to a worship service at Downtown United Presbyterian Church.



Greg Francis/Staff photographer

dren. She is a parishioner at St. Lawrence Church in Greece, where she volunteers in the parish's marriage preparation program and at St. Lawrence School.

She graduated from Cardinal Mooney High School and St. Bonaventure University. Finnerty previously served as advertising/public relations manager for Spectrum Office Products Inc. (1985-94); communication specialist for the Industrial Management Council (1994-97); and technical writer/marketing specialist at Safe Passage

International (1997-99).

"Her marketing skills will help us get the word out about vocations more," Father DeSocio commented.

According to Father DeSocio, funding for Finnerty's position was approved about a year ago by the Becket Hall board.

James Rinefierd, diocesan chief financial officer, said that funding for Becket Hall and its programs is derived chiefly from the 1980 sale of the former Becket Hall facility to St. John Fisher College.

Obituaries

Loretta Cisterna Doyle, 63; singer often donated talent to charities

When Loretta Cisterna Doyle learned she had kidney cancer, she told her family not to worry, according to her daughter, Bridget Sturm of Oceanside, Ca.

"She didn't want us to feel like it was anything bad," Sturm recalled. "It wasn't like something was killing her, it was God's time to take her home."

Mrs. Doyle, 63, died at her Gates home on April 22, 1999. A parishioner at St. Helen's Church on Hinckley Road, Mrs. Doyle was well-known for her professional singing in the Rochester area. She performed many benefit concerts for



such organizations as the Problem Pregnancy Help Center Inc., which is supported by several Catholic parishes.

"She's in a much better place," Sturm said of her mother. "A lot of people said God had an opening for a soloist in the choir of angels."

Mrs. Doyle grew up attending St. Fran-

cis of Assisi Parish, Rochester, and began learning about singing by performing Gregorian chants at the church. As an adult, she performed with the Rochester Oratorio Society and the Rochester Bach Choir, and regularly sang in musicals, at weddings and numerous civic events. She released a number of recordings, and she also sang in Dublin, Ireland, at a 1997 benefit organized by the Sisters of Mercy to restore an organ owned by the order.

In an interview for a story in the March 12, 1998, edition of the *Catholic Courier*,

Mrs. Doyle said she knew as a child that her life would be devoted to singing.

"I guess, early on, the fact that I had a voice was apparent," Doyle told the *Courier*. "I think that's a gift from God."

In addition to Sturm and her husband, John, Mrs. Doyle is survived by her husband, Andrew; her daughters, Georgette and Elizabeth; her son, Douglas; her sister, Camille Rizzari; her brother, Peter (JoAnn) Cisterna; brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, aunts, nieces, nephews and friends.

Mrs. Doyle's funeral Mass took place at St. Helen's on April 27. Interment took place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Rochester.

- Rob Cullivan

Sr. Mary Wuest, SSJ; nuclear medicine lab director

Sister Mary Wuest, SSJ, formerly Sister William Andrew, died April 15, 1999, at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary.

A Rochester native, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Holy Family Parish in 1931. Sister Mary earned her bachelor's degree from Nazareth College in 1937 with majors in chemistry and biology, and graduated magna cum laude. She also graduated from St. Joseph's Hospital School of Medical Technology, Elmira, in 1938.

Sister Mary, a member of the American Society of Nuclear Technologists, was

a laboratory technician at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, and director of the hospital's Nuclear Medicine Laboratory Department from 1933 to 1984.

From 1984 to 1988 she volunteered at St. Joseph's Hospital. She then retired to the motherhouse, where she did auxiliary work until 1997. Due to failing health she retired to the infirmary in 1997.

Sister Mary is survived by one brother, Andrew (Florence); two sisters, Martha Hunt and Sister Imelda, SSJ; nieces, nephews, cousins and her congregation sisters. Msgr. William Shannon presided

at her funeral liturgy at the motherhouse chapel April 17.

Contributions in Sister Mary's memory may be made to the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary.

Kids' Answers from page 12:

Power from on high

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