

DIOCESAN NEWS

Bishop Clark to ordain eight deacons June 12

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

"I'm a little overawed, at this point, by the immensity of it," Roger Loomis said.

Loomis was referring to his upcoming ordination as a permanent deacon. He and seven classmates will be ordained by Bishop Matthew H. Clark at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 12, at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

(No transitional deacons — men ordained as a final step to the priesthood — will be ordained this year.)

The class of permanent deacons:

Robert Burke, 57, a parishioner at Blessed Sacrament Church in Rochester. He conducted his field work for the diocese at St. Mary's Hospital, Matt Talbot Ministries and Adam Walsh Center. As a deacon, Burke plans to assist at Blessed Sacrament and also explore grief ministry — an area, he said, that was inspired by his experience surrounding the 1998 death of his 17-year-old son, Tom, from cancer.

Burke, a partner in the Burke, Albright, Harter and Rzepka law firm, said his law background will serve him well as a deacon.

"My experience with counseling people — I try to put the right spin on things," Burke explained.

Burke and his wife Kathryn have five other children.

John Cunningham, 56, a parishioner at St. Christopher Church in North Chili. His field work was performed with Catholic Family Center's Francis Center, Park Ridge Hospital and in hospice care. He plans to coordinate the RCIA program at St. Christopher Church and also assist in other capacities within the parish.

"The main thing is about the teaching and preaching of the word — not just on the pulpit, but in life," Cunningham emphasized.

Cunningham works in human resources and payroll for Cannon Industries. He and his wife Peggy have six children.

Robert Cyrana, 47, a parishioner at St. Stephen's Church in Geneva. His field

work was at the House of John hospice, and at a drug and alcohol rehabilitation/detention center in Willard. After ordination, Cyrana plans to continue volunteering with Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes while also assisting at the St. Felix/St. Francis cluster in Phelps and Clifton Springs.

"I'm going to go into it without an agenda and see what the needs are," he said.

Cyrana is an engineer with Johnson and Johnson's Ortho Clinical Diagnostics division. He and his wife Cecelia have four children.

Laurence Feasel, 57, a parishioner at St. Joseph's Church in Penfield. His field work was at Rochester General Hospital, Bethany House and the Catholic Gay & Lesbian Family Ministry. After ordination, Feasel said, he'd like to continue with hospital ministry and also assist at St. Salome's Church in Irondequoit, where his spiritual director, Father William Darling, is pastor.

"They're a wonderfully affirming, open-arms type of community," Feasel said of St. Salome's.

Feasel is director of the criminal justice and public safety programs at Monroe Community College. He and his wife Anne have three children.

Loomis, 55, a parishioner at St. Mary's Church in Honeoye, where his wife, Gail, is also a parishioner. His field work took place at Groveland Correctional Facility, St. Mary's Hospital and in hospice care. As a deacon, he plans to minister at St. Mary's in Honeoye, facilitating the parish social ministry program there and also working with Livingston County Rural Outreach.

Loomis, who converted to Catholicism in 1989, said his ordination is a reflection of his ongoing excitement about his faith.

"The Spirit has just kept me pumped the whole time," Loomis said.

Loomis is a controller for Tyldin Corp.

Jorge Malave, 44, a parishioner at St. Michael's Church in Rochester's Community of Hope cluster. He conducted much of his field work at the Monroe County Jail. As a deacon, Malave would like to serve in

his own parish.

"I like to work for the church; I like to serve the people," Malave said.

He added that he also hopes to stay connected with prison ministry. "I enjoy it. I see the people need someone to speak about God," he said.

Malave is a maintenance worker for Palmer Food Services. He and his wife Alicia have three children.

Salvador Otero, 36, a parishioner at St. Michael's Church in Rochester. His field work took place at the Monroe County Jail and Groveland Correctional Facility. After ordination, he plans to be active in his parish as well as other Hispanic parishes in Rochester. He also feels strongly about continuing with prison ministry, encouraging people to turn their lives around.

"I tell them to change, and don't come back. Maybe 10 years ago or a little longer, I'm not a whole lot different than those kids," he remarked.

Otero is a mechanic and is also equipment manager for Mount Hope Cemetery. He and his wife Maria have four children.

John Payne, 49, a parishioner at St. Louis Church in Pittsford. His field work took place with the Heart to Home adult day care center, Andrew's Center, and St. John Fisher College campus ministry. As a deacon, he hopes to be active at St. Louis Church, focusing on young adult ministry

as well as family religious education. His wife, Susan, is parish religious education administrator.

"I'd like to cross the generations and get prayer in the family," Payne said.

Payne is a financial analyst for Paychex Inc. He and his wife have five children.

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This year's deacon class will be the last under Deacon Stephen Graff, diocesan director of deacon formation since 1988. Deacon Graff, 53, will continue to teach part-time at St. Bernard's Institute, where he has served in numerous capacities.

Deacon Graff has accepted a position in the Syracuse Diocese as religious education director at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Liverpool. He will also work in deacon formation, as well as other ministry formation, for the Syracuse Diocese.

With the job change, Graff will have a much shorter trip to work. He recently moved to Baldwinsville, Onondaga County, from nearby Red Creek, Cayuga County.

"My current car has 160,000 miles on it," Deacon Graff observed.

However, he said that the considerable distance from his home to Rochester was not the primary reason for shifting duties.

"There are simply times that one discerns and moves on," Deacon Graff said.



Bill Hawken

A new priest's first

Father Steve Lape distributes Communion during his first Mass at his home parish, St. Theodore's Church, Gates, June 6. He was ordained a priest June 5 at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Father Lape has been assigned as priest intern at Good Shepherd Church in Henrietta.

'Sharing the Light' winners named

Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes has announced the winners of its 1999 "Sharing the Light Awards": Father James Enright, chaplain at the Auburn Correctional Facility; Michael Mancini, assistant director of Cayuga County Health and Human Services; and Gwen Webber-McLeod and Melina Carnicelli, partners in Treble Associates, a marketing and workplace training firm in Auburn.

The awards will be presented Tuesday, June 15, at the fifth "Sharing the Light Award" dinner, at Highland Park Golf Club, Auburn. Lisa Marsh Ryerson, president of Wells College, Aurora, will speak.

All four award-winners are Cayuga County residents. They were chosen for their "efforts to reflect and share God's healing light," according to a press release.

Father Enright has been involved in the Auburn School Board, Cayuga County Action Program, Cayuga County Sexual Abuse Task Force and Auburn Hospitality Center. He also is chaplain for the Auburn City Fire Department, Auburn Police Department and Owasco Fire Department.

Mancini, a lifelong Auburn resident, is a member of St. Mary's Church and a catechist, parish liturgy committee member

and minister of Communion and hospitality. He has been active with local youth programs, and in 1995 was named St. Francis Athletic Association's Man of the Year.

Webber-McLeod, who moved to Auburn in 1980, is a member of First United Methodist Church. She has been coordinator of Human Services Programs for the Cayuga/Seneca Community Action Agency. For 19 years she has been an advocate and spokesperson for women. She currently is working toward a master's degree in adult education at Elmira College.

Carnicelli, of Auburn and St. Mary's Church, was elected to the city council in 1995, and also serves on the board of the city's Economic Development Zone. For 17 years she was a teacher in the Auburn schools, and since 1990 has been a partner in Treble Associates.

In 1993 she was named St. Francis Woman of the Year; in 1995 she received the Cayuga Community Leadership Award and in 1997, the Auburn Human Rights Commission Honor. This year she was honorary chair for the county's March of Dimes Walk America.

Ticket information for the awards dinner, which will begin at 6 p.m., is available by calling 315/789-2686 or 315/252-0018.

CFC launches new loan program

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Leita Rogers has not owned a car in 10 years. She works full-time as a clerk/typist, but said she was unable to qualify for a car loan last year due to a poor credit history. So Rogers — a single mother who lives with her 16-year-old son — must rely on the bus system, as well as rides from friends, to get around town.

"I just felt there was no hope for me at all," said Rogers, 42. "I'm very limited. And taking buses at night, the safety's not always there."

For people such as Rogers, who work steadily but still struggle to meet expenses, help is now available from a new loan program through the Catholic Family Center.

Known as the Ways to Work Family Loan Program, this initiative provides no- or low-interest loans of up to \$2,200 each, to be paid back over two years.

According to Rick Burgholzer, program coordinator, loan money can be used to pay for such expenses as car purchases or repairs; child care; rent; furniture; and medical bills. The program also offers educational assistance to help applicants budget their money more wisely.

Ways to Work was launched April 1. Marie Sherne, program supervisor, said that as much as \$100,000 in loans will be distributed during the program's first year. These loans will all be interest-free up until Oct. 1, 2000. After that time, small interest fees will be applied to both existing and new loans.

Ways to Work is the result of a collaboration between Catholic Family Center and two national organizations: the McKnight Foundation and the Alliance of Children and Family. The loans are being processed

locally by the Progressive Neighborhood Federal Credit Union in Rochester.

The program is open to adults who meet one or more of the following criteria: are steadily employed or in vocational training; are pursuing a post-high school education; have at least one child under age 17 living at home; or don't qualify for traditional bank loans.

"Because they have low income they may not have established a credit history. Or, they may have had hard times and a bad credit history," Sherne said.

Applicants must show an ability to pay back their loans, Burgholzer and Sherne emphasized. Those who are delinquent will be contacted by collection agencies.

"This is a community service. If we don't get the money back, we can't give it out later," Sherne said. "This is not a handout; it's a hand up."

Burgholzer added that the loan money must be used strictly for necessities.

"It does have to be a need, not a luxury," Burgholzer said.

Burgholzer said that nearly 40 people had submitted applications for loans as of early June. Applications are being evaluated for approval by a loan committee.

Burgholzer noted that eight applicants, including Rogers, had received approval thus far and were expected to receive their checks this month.

Rogers, for one, is anxiously awaiting her loan money, which will put her one step closer to leaving the bus rides behind.

"I'm very excited. I can't wait to go out there and buy that car," Rogers said.

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EDITORS' NOTE: To learn more about the Ways to Work Family Loan Program, call 716/262-7193 or write to Catholic Family Center, 218 Clifford Ave., Rochester, NY 14621.