



John Leary

Bishop: Leary visions not divine

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has declared that John Leary — a Catholic layman who has claimed to receive interior visions of Jesus, Mary and some saints — has misjudged ordinary mental prayer for supernatural communication.

Bishop Clark also said Leary's messages contain doctrinal errors that run counter to the Catholic faith. Leary was informed of the bishop's decision through a meeting with diocesan officials and a June 25 letter from the bishop.

However, Bishop Clark stressed that the diocese considers Leary "a faithful Roman Catholic." The bishop said he will not forbid Leary to publish or teach about the

messages he claims to receive during the visions, so long as he points out in his published works that the diocese considers the messages to be of human origin.

Over the past six years — Leary, a retired Kodak chemist who lives in the Rochester suburb of Greece — has detailed the messages in public talks and 13 published volumes. Titled *Prepare for the Great Tribulation and the Coming Era of Peace*, the volumes have sold in the tens of thousands, and have appeared on Catholic bestseller lists.

Each volume is a diary of the messages — known as "locutions" — Leary claims to have received daily since July 1993.

Bishop Clark has asked Leary to place a preface in each newly printed work or reprinted volume. The preface is to warn readers against various doctrinal errors in

Leary's works. The diocese announced Bishop Clark's decision in a July 7 press statement.

Leary has claimed that his locutions warn of the coming of the anti-Christ, a political leader who will forge an alliance with the next pope. According to Leary's diaries, this pope — whom Leary calls a false pope — will replace Pope John Paul II after the current pontiff is exiled. Leary writes that the false pope will undermine church teachings and support persecution of religious and political opponents of the anti-Christ's regime.

The preface required by the bishop outlines two errors, in particular, that concerned him and a five-member commission he appointed to study Leary's writings over

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Bridging the gap through technology

More and more, Father P.J. Ryan's dealings with his parish and diocese are through his computer screen.

Father Ryan is delighted that he can communicate daily with dozens of people without leaving his desk, writing a letter or picking up a phone.

"I can bang out a reply in 30 seconds," Father Ryan said as he demonstrated e-mail options on his new software program, Lotus Notes. The program, plus new computers, were installed in early July at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Hamlin, where Father Ryan is pastor.

One of the main benefits of the program is connecting the computer to an "intranet" established by the diocese. Separate from yet similar to the workings of the Internet, this network enables Father Ryan and his staff to tap into a diocesanwide e-mail system and also receive daily

news updates from the Pastoral Center.

Within a year, every faith community in the diocese is scheduled to be equipped for the diocesan intranet, which will enable such licensed users as diocesan employees, pastors and parish employees to exchange confidential information.

The sprawling computer initiative is part of a diocesan

effort to increase communication between the Pastoral Center and the 200 or so faith communities. The effort is linked with Pastoral Planning for the New Millennium (PPNM), a strategic-planning process begun

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