

FEATURE

Board members possess wide variety of experience

In recognition of Catholic Press Month this month, the *Catholic Courier* would like to introduce its board:

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has been the *Courier's* board president since 1979 — he automatically assumed the position upon his installation as bishop. Bishop Clark spoke highly of the diversity and experience among his board.

"I am very grateful for the generous service of our board members," he said. "We have people of considerable skill. I rely heavily on their advice and counsel."

As for the newspaper itself, the bishop said he finds the *Courier* invaluable.

"One way I look at it is, what would we do without it? I don't know what we'd do," he remarked.

"It's a very important vehicle for ongoing sharing of information. And, in its own fashion, it is a teaching vehicle. I'd like to find effective ways to put it in front of all the people."

Bishop Clark added that the *Courier* provides a good opportunity for dialogue, even among readers who approach issues in the Catholic Church from opposing perspectives.

"Any paper that's worth its salt will generate reactions from its readers. In the real world, those reactions will cover a wide scope," he said. "In an honest effort to convey the news, we'll have that kind of tension. I am open to that kind of response; it's the kind of exchange of ideas that a newspaper should have. It's very healthy."



Father Kevin E. McKenna is secretary of the *Courier* board. He joined the board in 1992 as an ex officio member, when he began his current position as diocesan chancellor. He is also sacramental minister at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Scottsville.

Father McKenna noted that his interest in the *Courier* began long before he became a board member.

"I've certainly always been a *Catholic Courier* reader," Father McKenna said. "One thing I've said often is that I get the opportunity to read a lot of Catholic newspapers, and I think this one rates very high in terms of quality. We're very good at analyzing issues in the church."

Father McKenna said that many subjects involving the Catholic Church are complicated, and the *Courier* helps to clarify the gray areas.

"Our church is a reflection of a society that is becoming more and more complex. We cannot respond to the needs of evangelization unless we know the issues well and keep well-informed," Father McKenna said.



Father John M. Mulligan has served on the *Courier* board since he began as a diocesan vicar general in 1988. "I have always been impressed with the quality of people on the board. Each person brought an expertise and experience that was most helpful," said Father Mulligan, who has also been pastor at Rochester's Church of the Most Precious Blood since 1998. He is currently on sabbatical and is studying in Boston.

From Father Mulligan's perspective, the *Courier* serves a vital function on many levels.

"Bishop Clark is obviously committed to the role that the *Courier* plays in the diocese, and it is a real challenge trying to make the *Courier* an effective tool for communication, evangelization, reconciliation and education," Father Mulligan said.

In an era of increasingly rapid global

communication, he said, it is vital for the *Courier* to keep pace with the changing times.

"One of the things I am realizing more and more, here on sabbatical, is that we are fast becoming a global church. In one of my courses we have people from 10 different countries," he said.

"I am very pleased that Bishop Clark is challenging the board to embark on strategic planning for the *Courier*. We have just completed a readership survey, which will be very helpful in that process."



Father John Forni, chairman of the editorial committee, has been at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Wolcott, since June 1993. He is also the resident priest at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Red Creek, and at St. Jude Chapel, Fair Haven, during the summer. Father Forni, a native of Great Barrington, Mass., moved to Upstate New York in 1968, after doing graduate work at Cornell University. He was ordained in 1977, and is serving his second term on the *Courier* board.

Father Forni developed an interest in journalism from a "consumer's point of view." He feels that Catholic newspapers are an integral part of the church ministry, because they raise awareness and questions, and also provide a forum for communication. "(They) help people get a sense of the diocese beyond their parish," he said. He also feels that it is better to explore controversies and discuss ideas "than to keep them squashed under," and Catholic papers provide a place to do so.



Sister Roberta Tierney, SSND, has been a religious since 1958. Originally from Rochester, she is parish life coordinator for St. Cecilia's Church, Irondequoit, where she has been for 10 years. An educator for over 20 years, Sister Tierney has been both an administrator and a teacher, serving as diocesan superintendent of schools from 1976-78, and director of education from 1978-89. She feels that the Catholic press is important because it "brings information and knowledge of the larger church as well as the diocesan church." Since the church is a community, she said, she wants to bring as many people as possible into that community, and the paper contributes to that goal.

Ellen deBuono, a member of the finance committee, has served on the *Courier* board for three years. Born and raised in Rochester, she now lives in Penfield, where she is a member of St. Joseph's Church. She was vice-president of human resources at First Federal Bank for 39 years, and is now retired. Active in the community, deBuono served on the board of the Salvation Army for 20 years, and as chairperson for two years. She is also a self-taught artist, and paints watercolors in her spare time.

She feels that the Catholic press is especially important for people her age, because being brought up before the Second Vatican Council, deBuono feels that "it is very difficult for other people to make the transition" to the modern church, and the diocesan newspaper can help to ease that.

The best thing the paper can bring to its readers is education; it can make people aware of changes in the church, and clarify misconceptions, according to deBuono.



Thomas P. Flynn is vice president for communications at the

Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle*, where he has worked for 42 years, holding a variety of positions, from copy boy and reporter to various editorships and promotion manager. Flynn has been married for 37 years to Beta Trox Flynn, and they have two daughters. He is a member of Fairport's Church of the Assumption. Among his many awards, including a Pulitzer Prize Citation for a 1963 series on racial integration, Flynn lists "miscellaneous plaques, trophies, cookie and fruit baskets."

As a secular newspaper employee, Flynn sees his role for the past four years on the *Courier* board as one of adviser and friend to the paper.

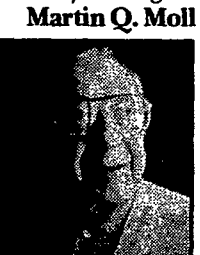
"I view my contribution, not as a competitor telling the other guy how to run his business, but as a sharing of common experiences in the communications and information business," he said.

Richard Hare, originally from Pontiac, Ill., is serving his second term on the *Courier* board. A member of the finance committee, his background is in publishing, and he has worked in newspapers for 40 years. He began working for the Gannett Co. Inc. in Illinois in 1960, and was later promoted to corporate advertising director, a position he held until 1976. He lends his marketing and advertising skills to the board, as well as his experience in newspaper research. He currently runs his own business, in which he does newspaper consulting, brokering and appraisal.

The Catholic press is "an important means of communication," Hare said, although he feels that may be changing due to the Internet. "The *Courier* is the best broad vehicle of communication," he also said, noting that it gives readers background on current issues, local news and information on religious happenings. Hare is a member of Sacred Heart Cathedral; he and his wife, Marilyn, have four grown children and six grandchildren. **Bill Kedley**, director of administration at Harris Beach & Wilcox LLP, an accounting firm in Rochester, has served as treasurer of the *Courier* board intermittently since joining it in 1985 and is currently chairman of the finance committee. With his wife, Karen, he attends St. Joseph's Church, Penfield, and St. Thomas More Church, Brighton. They have five children and one grandchild.

Kedley noted his belief that the paper is an important vehicle of communication between Bishop Clark and the diocesan faithful. He added that in an era of information overload, people need a Catholic newspaper to help them sift through the various issues that draw their faith into question. "There needs to be a regular source of Catholic information coming into the house, and I think the *Courier* plays a vital role in that," he said. "I think our challenge right now is to provide a medium that is useful to the family. The struggle we have is how much time do families have to pick up a newspaper and really read an article all the way through."

Martin Q. Moll Sr. is the longest serving board member in the board's history, as he was appointed by Bishop James E. Kearney (1937-66); he currently serves as a consultant to the board. He lives with his wife, Beverly, in Pittsford, where the two are St. Louis parishioners. The couple has four sons and three daughters. Moll's interest in the *Courier* spans the whole publishing process, from the planning to the printing presses. Now retired, Moll owned and operated



a printing business and was frequently consulted on technical matters regarding the *Courier*.

The Catholic press is "critically important," he said. "It is the most effective vehicle of the general education of the Catholic people of the diocese."



George A. Park Jr. is a relative newcomer to the *Courier* board, having joined it in 1998. Park brings 25 years of administrative experience at daily newspapers. He worked for Gannett Co. Inc. from 1974-79; was assistant publisher of the *Canandaigua Daily Messenger* from 1980-88; and served as publisher of the *Finger Lakes Times* from 1988-98. He was also a consultant for the *Finger Lakes Times* until 1999. He currently is a personal financial analyst with Primavera Financial Services.

Park said that his background, and his faith, led him to become a board member. "Obviously it goes directly to serving the church with your time and talent. The talent I have had is in newspapering," Park said. "I'm happy to help any way I can. It's very, very important for the *Courier* not only to survive, but thrive. It's the only written message from the bishop to the diocese that appears on a regular weekly basis."

Park added that the *Courier* is among a limited number of media outlets for in-depth coverage of religious issues. "It provides a counterbalance to the local newspapers," Park said. "The secular press is an area which has been one of the great disappointments to me in its coverage of religion."

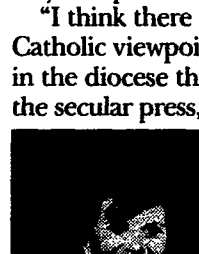
Park and his wife, Rosemary, reside in Oaks Corners, Ontario County. They are parishioners at St. Felix/St. Francis Parish Cluster in Clifton Springs and Phelps.

Leon Sawyko is a parishioner at Our Mother of Sorrows Church, Greece, as is his wife, Anne. The couple has five children and one grandchild. Sawyko is a partner at Harris Beach & Wilcox LLP.



"I've always been interested in newspapers," Sawyko said when asked about his three years of service on the board. He added that he thinks the *Courier* is a necessary component of diocesan life.

"I think there should be a vehicle to get Catholic viewpoint to our fellow Catholics in the diocese that you don't always get in the secular press," he said.



Julie Thaney, a parishioner at St. Louis Church, Pittsford, has served on the board since March 1999. She also volunteers with the planning committee of the Catholic Leadership Forum, a group of diocesan Catholics who have hosted a series of Rochester-area luncheons featuring notable speakers the past few years.

A client development manager at UNISYS Inc., an information technologies company, Thaney, with her husband, Bill, is also the proud parent of two 4-month-old twins, Matthew and Carolyn. Thaney said she tries to bring her expertise in marketing to the board.

"We need to continue to look for new ways to get the circulation up; and make it a pro-active paper, one that stimulates thought and conversation so that it's a paper that people refer to and say 'Hey, did you read that?'" she said. "The paper is the place where Catholics can go to feel that they belong to this diocese through the written word."

Compiled by Rob Cullivan, Andrea Dixon, Mike Latona and Mike Mergen.