

DIOCESAN NEWS

Michael Tedesco takes communications post

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Michael Tedesco, who has served since 1997 as associate communications director with the United Way of Greater Rochester Inc., has been named the director of communications for the Diocese of Rochester.

Tedesco, 39, has more than 15 years of public relations experience in the Rochester area. He will begin his position with the diocese on July 10.

"I'm attracted to working for my diocese in what I see as a step forward professionally," Tedesco said. "I want the opportunity to get to know Bishop (Matthew) Clark better because I've heard he is such a great leader."

The communications position had been vacant since Tedesco's predecessor, Elizabeth Brown, left in April 1999. Father Joseph Hart, diocesan vicar general and Pastoral Center moderator, made the hire. He and a search committee had interviewed candidates since October.

"We were not willing to hire someone who didn't have all the pieces," Father Hart said of the lengthy search process.

Father Hart said that Tedesco brings valuable experience from his two most recent positions. Based on his work with the United Way, Father Hart said that Tedesco's awareness of stewardship and development will help with diocesan fundraising efforts.

Tedesco also served for 10 years as communications manager with the Gates-Chili School District. Father Hart said that Tedesco's work in an expansive school sys-



tem will serve him well for the Rochester Diocese, which he described as "a complex organization with a lot of constituencies."

"He's a team builder and a team leader," Father Hart commented.

"I was impressed with his flexibility and depth of knowledge with the local media," added Bill Olsen, diocesan director of human resources. "He also seems to be very committed to the church."

Under Tedesco, Father Hart noted, the diocesan communications department will experience a slight restructuring. Sister Anne Guerin, SSJ, communications liaison for diocesan Catholic schools, will work out of Tedesco's office. In addition, Father Hart said he hopes to eventually hire a writer for publicity projects currently being handled by outside agencies. Father Hart added that Mary Dawes, communications assistant, will remain in her current position.

Tedesco said his initial goal is to get to know the people and inner workings of the diocese.

"My door will always be open. I view myself as a person easy to get along with. I want to establish good relations," he said.

Tedesco added that he leaves his United Way position "with a lot of mixed feelings. I take a lot of pride in what we do for the community and it took an exceptional job for me to leave."

According to Laura Saxby Lynch, senior vice president for communications, Tedesco's responsibilities at the United Way "literally ran the gamut," including day-to-day management of the communications department; coordination of special events and news conferences; and writing of press releases and other material.

"He's been invaluable," Lynch said. "I'm very sorry to see him go, but I recognize the value of a great opportunity and that's what this is for him. We will miss him terribly."

Tedesco grew up in the Rochester suburb of Irondequoit. He graduated from St. Ambrose School and Aquinas Institute,

and in 1983 earned a bachelor's degree in mass communication from St. Bonaventure University.

He joined the Rochester Americans Hockey Club in 1984 as associate director of communications, and was later promoted to director of media relations.

In 1987 he became communications manager for the Gates-Chili schools. He moved to the United Way in the fall of 1997.

Tedesco resides in Pittsford with his wife of 14 years, Lori, and their three children, ages 3, 6 and 9.

The family attends St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Mendon.



Mike Mergen/Photo intern

Runners make a big splash

More than 400 men, women, boys and girls took part in the fourth annual Run for the Young on May 13. The 5K road race and 1-mile fun run/walk began and ended at St. Lawrence Church in Greece, and raised \$12,000 for the Diocesan Youth Scholarship Fund. Scott Bagley of Irondequoit was the men's winner (16:05) and Audra Knapp, right, the women's (18:13). St. Lawrence took home His Most Holy Right Shoe Trophy and St. Theresa Parish, Stanley, His Most Holy Left Shoe Trophy — the bishop's bronzed running shoes.



Grant to establish schools fund

A \$400,000 anonymous gift has been made to the Diocese of Rochester to establish a Catholic Schools Excellence Fund. Bishop Matthew H. Clark planned to announce the gift at the fourth annual Celebrate Catholic Schools Dinner May 19 at Eagle Vale Country Club, Perinton.

The donor's children had attended diocesan Catholic schools. The fund will produce annual income to support critical areas of need in Catholic schools, such as faculty support and student financial aid.

"This is a wonderful gift for which we are

very grateful," commented Tim Dwyer, superintendent of schools.

The John Peter Medaille Award was to be given to Father Thomas Mull, an advocate for Catholic schools who has served on many committees and boards.

The Elizabeth Ann Seton Memorial Award was to be granted posthumously to Bishop Dennis Hickey, who died Oct. 6, "a pastor, teacher and friend of schools in a multitude of ways, always ready with a listening ear and a helping hand," according to a schools office statement.

Southern Tier Catholic Charities celebrates 20th anniversary

Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier Inc. will mark its 20th year with a banquet on Sunday, May 21, at the Elmira Holiday Inn, 760 East Water St., Elmira. The event is open to the public.

The agency was established by Bishop Clark on June 29, 1980 — as the Southern

Tier Office of Social Ministry — to serve residents of Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben, Tompkins and Tioga counties. In 1994 it became Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier, and in 1997 moved its offices to 215 E. Church St. in Elmira.

Among the agency's programs are

Emergency Services, located in Elmira, serving 600 people per month; Food Bank of the Southern Tier, located in Big Flats and distributing food to eight counties; Gateways Community Living Program, for people recovering from psychiatric illness; Transitions — Counseling for Healthy Living, which deals with substance abuse; and Teens and Family Outreach in Tioga County, for pregnant and parenting teens, and their children, families and partners.

Recognizing

James Evangelista, a junior at DeWitt High School, Geneva, has been named a United States National Award Winner in Honor Roll and will appear in the United States Achievement Academy Official Yearbook. The award recognizes academic performance, interest, aptitude, leadership qualities, responsibility, citizenship and dependability.

Paul Knittle, a junior at McQuaid Jesuit High School, Rochester, participated in the National Youth Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C., in March. A member of a select group of high school students from across the country, Paul was chosen because of his outstanding academic achievements and interest in the law profession. The Forum is a not-for-profit educational organization.

The following students at Our Lady of Mercy High School, Brighton, won awards at the 2000 Rochester

Finger Lakes Scholastic Art Show at the Rochester Institute of Technology in January. **Erin Dwyer**, a senior, won a "Silver Key" in ceramics/glass. **Lisa Yanz**, a senior, won a "Silver Key" in drawing. **Jennifer Wells**, a junior, won a "Silver Key" in drawing. **Ashley Amalfi**, a sophomore, won a "Silver Key" in mixed media. **Rachel Mryglod**, a freshman, received "Honorable Mention" in drawing, and **Katharine Sirianni** was awarded "Honorable Mention" in drawing as well.

Sarah Guarnere, a junior at Our Lady of Mercy High School, Brighton, participated in the Presidential Classroom's International Conference the Future Leaders Summit in Washington, D.C., March 18-25. Joining students from around the world, Sarah participated in seminars presented by leaders of various nations and international organizations. She also visited several U.S. government sites, including the White House, where the students were given a private tour.

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With a vegetable, Risotto napoleon

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Braised veal shanks combined with brandy/tomato sauce served with candied carrots and snowpeas

DUCKLING BREAST WITH SUN-DRIED CHERRY MACADAMIA PESTO

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MAITRE'D RIB

Generous cut of our prime beef dusted with crushed peppercorns and served with a Maitre'd butter

PORTOFINO

Lobster, shrimp, crabmeat and scallops sauteed in olive oil with artichoke hearts & black olives and served over a bed of pasta

Serving Lunch Tuesday - Friday
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