

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Leadership

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tical to the number of churches — but the committee report also stated that “not all priests are capable of leading all parish communities.” For example, health reasons often play a part in restricting a priest’s abilities, Grocki said.

“The parishes are recognizing the fact they may not have a priest as a leader,” Olsen remarked.

Currently, Olsen said, there are 12 people in the diocese’s pastoral administrator pool. The diocese is striving to swell that pool by recruiting on a year-round basis “rather than once a year,” he said.

Regardless of the administrative model used, the advisory committee noted that every parish in the diocese will still be assigned a priest to administer the sacraments. Olsen also stressed that the recommendations aren’t meant to minimize the importance of the priesthood.

“We can’t do things to undermine people’s view of what a priest is, making it less than it should be,” Olsen said. “The priests don’t want to be seen as ‘circuit riders’ or plugging holes.”

Father Conboy noted that the committee sought to create guidelines so that each parish would be matched with the best possible administrative model.

“The question was, are we going to just put people in slots, or look at the needs of the parish,” commented Father Conboy, who visited several parishes in recent months where a transition in leadership was soon expected.

Even so, Father Conboy said, the diocese may not always be able to honor each parish’s wishes. He cited St. Agnes Parish in Avon, where Father Ronald Harley, pastor, died suddenly in September 2000. The parish is currently served by a temporary pastoral administrator, Barbara Swiecki.

“They had to go to another model out of necessity. Maybe it wasn’t what they were looking for,” Father Conboy remarked.

Father Conboy, in submitting the committee’s report to Bishop Clark, wrote that it “is a working document and, in the future, will need to be re-visited and revised to meet new and demanding needs ... (but) at this point in time, we feel we have some workable guidelines.”

Among the committee’s other recommendations:

- Offering retired priests under age 75 one-year positions as sacramental ministers, and developing a pool for those interested. This is based on a concern that, according to the report, “A very limited pool of priests are available for this role. Increasingly, they are externs.”

- Offering priests ages 67 to 70 the option of retiring and then taking full-time appointments as parochial vicars, sacramental ministers or chaplains. The minimum retirement age is 67.

- Defining consistent guidelines and procedures for extern priests, and developing cooperative efforts with bishops in dioceses which have potential externs. Father Conboy said that approximately 20 externs currently serve in the Rochester Diocese. The committee’s report cited such challenges to this practice as potential depletion of externs in their native country; cultural adjustments; and uncertainty about externs’ length of commitment.

- Examining split assignments for permanent deacons, and developing a process to more efficiently utilize the ministry of retired deacons. The report noted that deacons are growing in demand but not in numbers. Deacon Palma said 90 active deacons and 10 retired deacons currently serve the diocese. Five men are scheduled for ordination this year.

“The request for deacons is greater than the amount of deacons available,” Deacon Palma said.

The study also explored the role of deacons in administering such sacraments as marriage and baptism when priests are not available. However, Deacon Palma cautioned that deacons must also remain attentive to preaching and social ministry.

## Cheerleading challenge



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

Siena Catholic Academy cheerleaders present a Russian jump at the 46th annual 2000-2001 CYO Cheerleading Tournament at SUNY Brockport on March 18. (Above, from left) eighth-grader Sara Rizzo, seventh-grader Stephanie Daily, seventh-grader Ana Coughlin, eighth-grader Anne Cegla, and seventh-grader Erin Callanan perform. (Left) Fifth-grader Briana Wing from St. Pius Tenth School does a cheer. The Blazers placed fourth in their division; 15 teams and 240 cheerleaders participated in the tournament. Placing first in Division A fifth and sixth grades was St. Rita’s; in Division B, Christ the King. First in Division A seventh and eighth grades was Holy Cross and Division B, St. Lawrence.

## Obituary

### Fr. Alletto, pastor of 2 city parishes

Father Nicholas Alletto, a diocesan priest who held pastorates at St. Lucy and St. Anthony of Padua parishes in Rochester, died March 17, 2001, at Park Ridge Hospital in Greece from pneumonia. His death occurred on the 56th anniversary of his ordination. He was 81.

Father Alletto was born in Rochester and grew up in the former St. Patrick’s Cathedral Parish. He attended St. Andrew’s and St. Bernard’s seminaries and was ordained March 17, 1945.

“He was a good student at St. Bernard’s and was very involved in helping us with studies,” said Father Jerome Schifferli, a 1945 classmate.

Father Alletto held assistant pastorates at St. Francis of Assisi, Auburn (1945-46); St. Anthony, Elmira (1946); St. Patrick, Rochester (1946-48); St. Patrick, Corning (1948-49); Our Lady of Lourdes, Elmira (1949-50); Church of the Assumption, Fairport (1950-51); St. Anthony, Elmira (1951-59); and St. Francis of Assisi, Auburn (1959-61).

His first pastorate came in 1961, at the former St. Lucy’s Parish in Rochester. In 1963 he moved to another city parish with a large Italian base, St. Anthony of Padua, to become pastor there.

“Friendship was one of his great gifts,” said Father Francis Davis, another 1945 classmate, who said that Father Alletto was well-liked by his parishioners and fellow priests.

During Father Alletto’s pastorate, St. Anthony of Padua opened a new church building. It was dedicated Sept. 16, 1965.

However, Father Alletto’s active duty was cut short after a June 1969 accident

at the St. Anthony’s rectory, where his housekeeper was killed by carbon monoxide fumes from a car that had been left running in the rectory garage. Father Alletto and his assistant pastor were also overcome by the fumes, and Father Alletto was left with permanent brain damage. He retired in June 1970.

“A great deal of his priesthood was spent incapacitated; he was gifted and it was a tragic loss,” Father Davis said.

“It was a terrible accident. It’s a strange case, it really is,” Father Schifferli added.

Father Alletto had lived since 1995 at the former Lakeshore Nursing Home, now known as the The Shore Winds, in Rochester. Father R. Richard Brickler, pastor of St. Boniface Church in Rochester, said he occasionally visited Father Alletto.

“He liked to play his opera tapes. Sometimes he would remember things in the (distant) past, but his recent memory wasn’t very good,” Father Brickler said. “He did seem to appreciate a visit; you’d get a good feeling that he somehow seemed to appreciate it.”

Father Alletto is survived by his brothers, Alphonsé (Pat) and Joseph (Carolyn) Alletto; sister-in-law, Helen Alletto; and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

His funeral Mass was set for March 21 at St. Anthony of Padua Church, with interment at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Donations in his memory can be made to St. Anthony of Padua Church, 60 Lorimer St., Rochester, NY 14608.

—Mike Latona

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at the Lamplighter Restaurant

Every March and September the Lamplighter Restaurant features German specialties for lunch and dinner.

This is a list of specials the restaurant will be offering for March 2001.

Potato Pancakes  
Served with sour cream and applesauce

Cabbage Soup  
made the old fashion way

Sauerbraten  
Choice marinated beef, slow roasted and served in its own natural au jus

Knockwurst  
Spicy German sausage

Rouladen  
Choice rolled beef stuffed with bacon, pickles and onions

Wiener Schnitzel  
Lightly breaded choice veal

Regular continental menu also available including Angus Beef, Fresh Seafood and Italian Specialties.

Lunch: Tuesday-Friday 11:30 to 2:00  
Dinner: Monday-Thursday 4:30 to 10:00  
Friday and Saturday till 11:00

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