

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Deacons ordination set for June 9 at cathedral

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will ordain five men to the permanent diaconate, and one man to the transitional diaconate, at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 9, in Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester.

The five men becoming permanent deacons, and their home parishes, are **Jay E. Brown**, 54, of St. Jude's, Gates; **Dean F. Condon**, 39, pastoral administrator at Guardian Angels, Henrietta; **Donald J. Germano**, 51, of St. Joseph's Parish, Penfield; **George J. Spezzano**, 59, of St. Thomas Aquinas, Leicester/St. Lucy, Retsof; and **Philip H. Yawman**, 60, of Church of the Assumption, Fairport.

**James Fennessy**, 43, of St. Alphonsus Parish, Auburn, will be ordained a transitional deacon. He is slated to be ordained a priest of the Diocese of Rochester in June 2002.

None of the permanent deacons has yet been assigned to a position within the Diocese of Rochester.

Fennessy will be spending the summer serving at St. Ambrose Parish, Irondequoit, before returning to Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., in September, to complete his fourth year of theological studies.

**Brown** and his wife, Peggy, have three children, and he is a service engineer with Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester. Born in Rochester, he attended Holy Family Church and School, and then Aquinas Institute, Monroe Community College, and the Rochester Institute of Technology. From 1971-72, he served in U.S. Army state-

side. At St. Jude's, he has been a lector, choir member, softball coach and catechist.

"I've always been involved in service, it seems, my entire life," he said when asked why he's becoming a deacon.

Born in Liverpool, England, **Condon** immigrated to the United States with his family as an infant. He holds a master's degree in divinity from Harvard Divinity School in Boston, as well as a bachelor's degree in theology and philosophy from Boston College. From 1988-95, he directed charismatic renewal services for the Archdiocese of Boston, and then became pastoral administrator at Guardian Angels. He and his wife, Janet, have five children.

When asked why he chose to become a deacon, Condon said: "It was a natural fit for the vocation I was already living."

**Germano** grew up attending St. Francis Xavier Church and School, in Rochester, and then Christ the King Church and School in Irondequoit. He then went to Bishop Kearney High School, Irondequoit, and St. Bonaventure University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in finance. He works as a financial professional.

He and his wife, Mary, have four children, and he has served as a catechist at St. Joseph's for two decades. He also served as a member of the diocesan charismatic renewal liaison team from 1988-97.

"I've always had a sense I was going to be ministering in the church," he said.

**Spezzano**, a native of Wadsworth, which lies between Leicester and Retsof, grew up attending the public schools of the Township of York, and joined the U.S. Air Force in 1961. He left as a staff sergeant in 1970, having served in Vietnam during 1965. For



Karin von Voigtlander/Photo intern

## Day for a deacon

Ryan Stearns, 5, of St. Bridget/St. Joseph Parish in East Bloomfield, cuts dandelions at Deacon Claude Lester's Centerfield home May 19 while other parishioners landscape and paint in gratitude for the deacon's 13 years at the parish. He will be serving St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua.

the past 26 years, he has worked for Specialized Printed Forms Inc., in Caledonia, and is currently a credit manager. He and his wife, Elaine, have three children and nine grandchildren.

**Spezzano** has served his parishes as a lector and eucharistic minister, and credits priests who have worked there for inspiring him to become a permanent deacon.

"I think it's the opportunity to act as a real representative of the church," he said.

**Yawman** and his wife, Donna, have three sons, and he grew up attending Blessed Sacrament Church and School in Rochester. A graduate of McQuaid Jesuit High School, Brighton, Yawman went to the University of Notre Dame and earned a master's degree in social work from Syracuse University.

Currently, Yawman is the executive director of Threshold Center for Youth, Rochester, a privately funded, not-for-profit organization that provides educational and counseling services for young people. He also chairs a housing program board for the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester. Additionally, he has served as a lector and eucharistic minister at Assumption, and he and his wife have served as pre-Cana instructors.

Yawman said he was inspired to become a deacon after hearing, at a wedding in 1996, an Old Testament reading about how God speaks in a "whisper."

"The whole field of social work is a business about people, and trying to raise them up, and I see the diaconate as an extension of that," he said.

**Fennessy** was born in Auburn, and baptized at St. Alphonsus Church, but spent most of his childhood in Liverpool in the Diocese of Syracuse. A 1982 graduate of SUNY Oswego, Fennessy worked in the lumber industry after college, but said he has continually felt called to be a priest since he was a child.

"When I was working, I just thought that there was more to life than what I was doing," he said.

As a representative of St. Mary's Parish, Waterloo, to the 1993 Diocesan Synod in Rochester, Fennessy said he learned about a diocesan-sponsored discernment program for men in their 30s thinking of becoming priests. He then decided to participate in the program, and entered Becket Hall in Rochester, the diocese's residence for men in priestly formation, in 1996.

Since then, he has taken pre-theology courses at Nazareth College, St. John Fisher College and St. Bernard's Institute, all in Rochester.

He also did pastoral work at St. Andrew's Parish, Rochester, in 1998, and spent a year in pastoral work at St. Ambrose from 1999-2000. In the summer of 2000, he also did clinical pastoral work at Strong Memorial Hospital, Rochester.

Join us for "24 Hours with the Lord"

MAYBE YOUR PLACE IN  
GOD'S PLAN IS AT OUR PLACE



Join us on the Journey.

Does your experience include a love of God and a love of people? Do you sense a desire to help others find their way in God's work? If so, consider if God is calling you to priesthood.

To help you on your journey, visit Becket Hall. Becket Hall offers a residential pre-theology program as well as programs for men in high school, college and beyond. Come, join us and find your place at our place!

Call Father John DeSocio at (716) 461-2890 to arrange a visit, or check out our web site at [www.dor.org](http://www.dor.org) (click on "vocation"). Ask about our June event, "24 Hours with the Lord" open to men ages 16 and up, who are open to finding out more about priesthood.

**BECKET HALL**

314 Gregory St., Rochester, New York

### Recognizing

★ **Maribeth Mancini**, diocesan director of Evangelization and Catechesis, was installed May 3 as president of the National Conference for Catechetical Leadership during its 65th annual meeting in Buffalo. The Catholic ministerial association, and its 1,900 members, are dedicated to serving the church's catechetical mission in the United States, especially by promoting excellence in catechetical leaders.

★ The Sisters of Mercy of the Americas' Regional Community of Rochester have elected their first leadership team of the 21st century: **Sister Sheila Stevenson, RSM**, was re-elected president; **Sister Patricia Prinzing, RSM**, in her second term, was elected vice-president. **Sister Jane Schur, RSM**, who has served as case-manager for Catholic Charities AIDS Services, and **Sister Marlene Vigna, RSM**, director of internal communications for the community, were newly elected.

The team will serve from June 30, 2001-June 30, 2005.

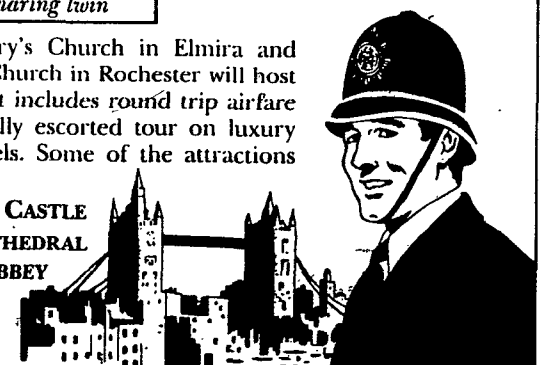
## LONDON AND BEYOND

SEPT. 25 - OCT. 4, 2001

\$1859 per person, sharing twin

Fr. Rick Farrell, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Elmira and Fr. John Firpo, pastor of St. Helen Church in Rochester will host this 10-day trip to England. The cost includes round trip airfare from Rochester via US Airways, fully escorted tour on luxury motorcoach, first class English hotels. Some of the attractions included in the tour will be:

- YORK • STRATFORD • WINDSOR CASTLE
- ROMAN BATHS • SALISBURY CATHEDRAL
- STONEHENGE • WESTMINSTER ABBEY
- TOWER OF LONDON
- BUCKINGHAM PLACE
- AND A TICKET TO THE THEATRE



Deposit deadline is June 15. For trip registration form or more information call  
FR. RICK AT 607-734-6254 OR FR. JOHN AT 716-235-1210