

## DIOCESAN NEWS

*Father McKenna steps down from diocesan roles*

By Mike Latona  
Staff Writer

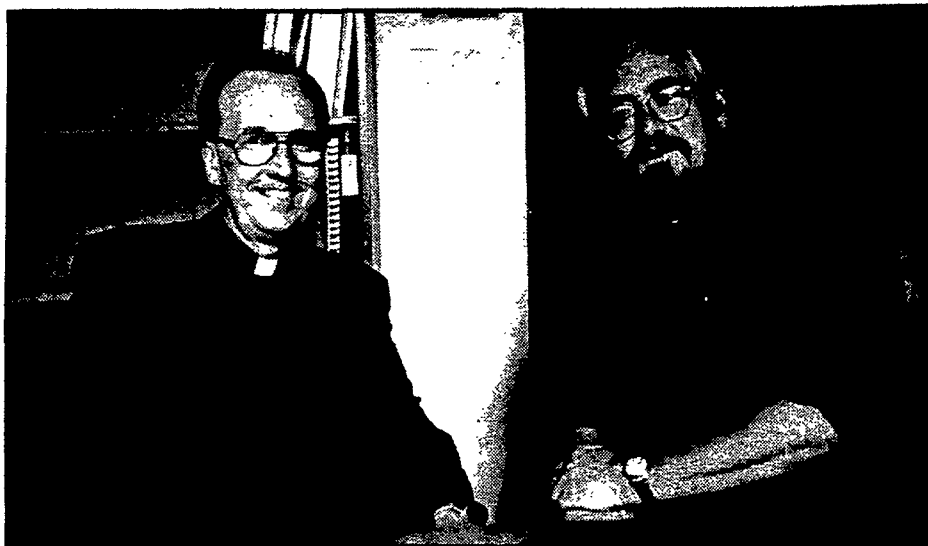
Father Kevin E. McKenna, who ascended to the Canon Law Society of America's presidency during his nine years as chancellor and 11 years as director of diocesan legal services, stepped down from both diocesan roles in late June. His replacement, Father Daniel J. Condon, began June 26 as chancellor and legal services director.

Father McKenna, 51, is continuing his pastorate at St. Cecilia's Parish in Irondequoit. He will also spend much of the upcoming year traveling as part of his duties with the Canon Law Society of America. He began a three-year commitment on the CLSA's board of governors last fall and currently serves as vice-president, with a one-year term as president due to begin this October.

Father McKenna was ordained a priest of the Rochester Diocese in 1977. He assisted at St. Margaret Mary, Irondequoit (1977-79) and St. Pius Tenth, Chili (1979-82). Following graduate studies in canon law at the Gregorian University in Rome, he served as diocesan vice-chancellor from 1984-88. He obtained his doctorate in canon law from St. Paul's University in Ottawa and became diocesan director of legal services in 1990. He took on the role of chancellor in 1992.

He is the author of two books: *The Ministry of Law in the Church Today*, published by University of Notre Dame Press in 1998; and *A Concise Guide to Canon Law*, published by Ave Maria Press in 2000. He also was chief editor of the *Church Finance Handbook*, published by the CLSA in 1999, and has written numerous articles for church publications.

Father McKenna said he has enjoyed his



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

**Father Daniel Condon (right), is replacing Father Kevin E. McKenna as diocesan chancellor and director of legal services. Father McKenna will continue as pastor of St. Cecilia Church, Irondequoit, and will devote more time to traveling when he assumes the presidency of the Canon Law Society of America this fall.**

diocesan duties because of "the opportunity to work with priests and other pastoral ministers who have questions with some relationship to the canonical issues. I've looked at that as a ministry and service."

However, he added, "I had expressed a desire to return to parish work, which I'd been away from since 1982." To that end, Father McKenna began his pastorate at St. Cecilia's in June 2000.

Father Condon, 46, comes to the roles of chancellor and legal services director after nearly 20 years in parish ministry. Ordained in 1981, he was assistant at St. Joseph's, Penfield (1981-86), Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester (1986-87) and St. Cecilia's, Irondequoit (1987-91). He also has served on several boards, including

Priests' Council; Priest Personnel Board; and the boards of directors of the Catholic Family Center and Catholic Charities.

Father Condon became pastor of St. Patrick's, Mount Morris, in 1991 and added a second pastorate, at Holy Angels in Nunda, in 1993. He led both those parishes until 1999, when he began studies at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., in preparation for his new diocesan roles. He graduated May 12 with a licentiate in canon law.

"The study of canon law gives you a sense of the breadth of the concerns that people have," Father Condon remarked.

In addition to chancellor and legal services director, he is the new diocesan director for newly ordained priests, succeeding Father Edward Palumbos.

Regarding his new responsibilities, Father Condon remarked, "I'm happy to serve the diocese. It's a new challenge."

He resides at St. Thomas More Parish in Brighton where he celebrates weekday Masses. He also plans to provide weekend coverage at other parishes as needed.

Traditionally, a chancellor is the person who maintains the archives of a diocese and also serves as notary. Because Father McKenna is a canon lawyer, his role was expanded to include involvement in numerous situations involving canon law.

One example he offered is Rochester's Corpus Christi Parish. In 1998, Bishop Matthew H. Clark removed the parish's administrator, Father James Callan, for violating church teaching on intercommunion, homosexuality and women's roles. Father Callan and many former Corpus Christi staff and parishioners then formed a breakaway church, Spiritus Christi.

"There were a lot of canonical issues raised with Corpus Christi, and there will be others as this situation continues," Father McKenna said.

Father McKenna also served 12 years on the diocesan Priests' Personnel Board. He said he has been sought out on many priest personnel issues — "those which have been publicized and others never publicized, advising the bishop of his canonical responsibilities and the rights of the priest who might be in a difficult pastoral situation."

His role as director of legal services gave him "responsibilities linking canon law and civil law," Father McKenna said, parish real estate transactions being one example.

Beginning in 2000, in his role as legal services director, Father McKenna became supervisor for the diocesan Tribunal, of which he has been a judge for several years.

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