

DIOCESAN NEWS

Courier garners six national awards

The *Catholic Courier* brought home six awards from the Catholic Press Association's annual convention in Dallas, Texas, May 23-25, for work published in 2000.

The CPA consists of representatives of U.S. and Canadian Catholic newspapers, magazines, newsletters and general publishers. Its president is Karen Franz, general manager and editor of the *Courier*.

The *Courier* won awards in the following categories:

Best Front Page, Tabloid, (Less than 4-color): First place. The three front pages judged were created with input from Kim Parks, graphics manager, Linda Jeanne Rivers, graphic artist, and Andrea Dixon, photographer.

"This front page made good and flexible use of spot color and effective photo illustrations," the judges wrote. "The page sets up well with the flag in the middle and a clean and clear rail index box."

Best Reporting on Teenagers: First place, Mike Latona, staff writer, for his Nov. 30 article on a teen whose prison ministry stemmed from his arrest for vandalism.

"Interesting feature about a teen who turned to prison ministry after his own run-in with the law shocked him into straightening out his life," the judges wrote.

Best Reporting on Young Adults: Sec-



ond place, Rob Cullivan, staff writer, for his May 25 piece on Yolanda Ortiz who had battled a debilitating illness and also conducted ministry.

"Despite her rare disease, Yolanda Ortiz is not filled with anger," the judges wrote. "Instead of turning away from her faith, she channels her energy toward it."

Best Personality Profile, Circulation 40,001+, Diocesan Newspaper: Second Place, Cullivan, for his Feb. 24 cover story profiling Carol Crossed, a nationally known Catholic consistent life ethic activist from Brighton.

"We liked this because it illuminated the story of a person whom we view as an extremist and puts a human face on the kind of behavior that we see as outside the box," judges wrote.

Best News Writing, National Event: Third place, Latona, for his series on the priest shortage titled "Facing the Future."

"A comprehensive approach to a timely and relevant subject," the judges wrote.

Best Photo Story: Honorable Mention, Dixon, for her Nov. 30 photos of a Mexican migrant family living in Wayne County.

In addition to the *Courier* awards, Msgr. William H. Shannon, professor emeritus of Nazareth College, Rochester, received two awards in the Best Article category for General Interest Newsletters. The priest received first place for his April 2000, article in *Catholic Update* of Cincinnati, Ohio, titled "The Resurrection: How we know it's true," and honorable mention for his September article in the same publication titled "The future of the Pa-pacy."

- Rob Cullivan

Diocese bolsters youth-ministry staffing

The diocesan Office of Youth Ministry has added two positions to meet a growing level of interest and participation by young Catholics in the Rochester Diocese.

Sue Versluys, youth minister for 20 years at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Spencerport, began July 2 as the diocesan youth office's new program specialist. In her 25-hour-per-week position, Versluys will coordinate or assist with such events as the Diocesan Youth Convention, National Catholic Youth Conference, Junior High Rally, Hands of Christ Awards and Run for the Young. Versluys will also continue in her three-year role as diocesan retreat administrator.

Michael Theisen, diocesan director of youth ministry, said the new position will allow Nora Bradbury-Haehl, program specialist for youth and young-adult ministry, to focus more extensively on young adults and preparation for World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto.

The diocese has also created a new full-time position, not yet filled, for an urban youth-ministry coordinator. This position will involve development and coordination of a youth-ministry program in Rochester's inner-city parishes, with special attention to cultural programming

for Hispanics and African-Americans. Theisen hopes that a hire will be made by early August, and noted that the position is being funded through a variety of grant monies.

Concurrent with the addition of these positions, Theisen, diocesan coordinator of youth ministry since 1992, has been promoted to director of youth ministry effective July 1. Theisen, 40, said his new status will allow him to oversee development of the new positions.

"One of the priorities is to help make sure this initiative gets off the ground in a very comprehensive manner," Theisen said.

Also, with the addition of Versluys, Theisen said he now has more time to assess potential changes for diocesan youth ministry, such as inclusiveness of cultures and geographic areas, expansion of junior high youth ministry, maximization of available technology and more meetings with adult planning groups.

"This helps free up Michael to meet the unmet needs," Versluys said.

Versluys, 48, brings a wealth of experience to her new position. She began as a volunteer youth minister at St. John the Evangelist developing her role into a paid

full-time position by the mid-1990s. She is also an active volunteer at Camp Koinonia in Yates County, where she helps conduct a variety of camps for children and families.

Theisen noted that St. John's in Spencerport, under Versluys, has developed into one of the most active parish youth ministries in the Rochester Diocese. Yet Versluys said, "I love a good challenge and the time was right to leave. I think I can bring an experience of being with kids, understanding kids and being non-judgmental of kids, and do it on a bigger scale."

Theisen said interest in diocesan youth ministry has grown steadily in recent years. He noted that planning groups have listed this area as one of their top concerns, resulting in the creation of numerous parish youth-ministry positions. In addition, Theisen said, participation is rising in diocesan-wide and national youth events. He expects, for example, that 1,000 diocesan teens will attend the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis this December, compared to 150 who attended the convention in Philadelphia in 1993.

- Mike Latona

Recognizing

* St. Charles Borromeo School, Greece, has received a \$2,500 grant from DuPont Community Fund to upgrade its playground. The grant will be put toward the school's ultimate fundraising goal of \$30,000 for playground improvements.

* Catholic Charities of Livingston County has received a donation of \$1,725 from Wal-Mart of Geneseo to be used for the agency's Christmas Program, as well as for emergency services for the poor and working poor of Livingston County.


* The Nazareth Schools honored Nazareth Academy alumna Norma Sackett Riedman of Rochester and Nazareth Hall alumnus James P. Growney of Naples, Fla., at the schools' May 8 Lumina-Lux Awards dinner in Rochester. The awards recognize Nazareth schools' alumni for their service to the community. Riedman volunteers on behalf of numerous groups and organizations including a hospital gift shop and a women's group that reads to disadvantaged children. Growney, a retired businessman and philanthropist, serves on the board of trustees for St. John Fisher College, Rochester.

* Aquinas Institute students donated \$10,000 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation at an assembly on May 24. The goal for the student body's annual fundraiser was \$4,500; the average cost of providing a wish to one child.

The money raised allowed a 4-year-old girl to go to Disney World to meet Cinderella and a 10-year-old boy to meet the World Wrestling Federation's Stone Cold Steve Austin. Full names of the children were not released. Both children and their families attended the assembly to thank the students.

* The baccalaureate Mass for St. Bonaventure University's class of 2001 on May 12 featured a song, "Coming Home," written for the class by Susan Wallace of Victor, the music minister and a parishioner at Pittsford's Church of the Transfiguration. Wallace's daughter, Juliet T. Wallace, a visual arts major and member of the Church of the Transfiguration, was in the graduating class.

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