

DIOCESAN NEWS



Karin von Voigtlander/Photo intern

Puerto Rican pride

(Above left) Lisa Marie Valentin, 8, dances for the crowds Aug. 5 at the 32nd annual Puerto Rican Festival at Rochester's Civic Center Plaza. (Above) Samantha Dinolfo, 3, examines merchandise for sale at the festival. (Left) Marcy Rivera, a festival volunteer, paints a Puerto Rican flag on Matthew Colon.

DeJesus, Clark fill new positions in diocese

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

The diocese has filled key positions in the Office of Youth Ministry and the Office of Stewardship and Development, both effective in July.

Lynette DeJesus, 28, began July 30 as the first coordinator of urban youth ministry. Mark Clark, 48, began July 16 as associate director of stewardship and development.

DeJesus will be responsible for developing cultural programming and leadership formation for Hispanics and African-Americans, ages 12-18. Working out of the Urban Center on Austin Street — site of the former convent at Holy Apostles Parish — DeJesus will serve all 30 Catholic churches located within Rochester's city boundaries.

DeJesus, a Cleveland native, graduated from Baldwin-Wallace College in 1995 with a major in psychology and minor in sociology. She worked as an advocate for inner-city housing in both Cleveland and Miami,

Fla., where she had resided since last year. DeJesus also worked in Cleveland as a case manager for an alcohol and drug treatment program, and served as a youth minister for a Hispanic parish. In addition, DeJesus is serving through 2004 on the Catholic Bishops' National Advisory Council. This 63-member body of clergy and lay people meets twice annually to make recommendations concerning matters before the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

DeJesus said she's looking forward to being the first appointee to the newly created youth-ministry position in the Rochester Diocese.

"I love the idea that it was a new program I can start from the beginning and develop," DeJesus said. At this point, DeJesus said, her top priority is to familiarize herself with people in the diocese. She attended the annual Diocesan Youth Convention Aug. 3-5 where, ironically, this year's theme was multicultural awareness.

DeJesus' position is being funded

through numerous national and local grants. Theisen noted that diocesan officials have been working for three years to obtain the necessary monies.

"This is a big moment for us. I'm very excited," Theisen said.

"We're very lucky that all the pieces came together with the funding," added Maribeth Mancini, diocesan director for the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis, of which youth ministry is a member office.

Mancini remarked that the diocese got "an excellent candidate" in DeJesus. Theisen added that DeJesus "has a lot of gifts — determination, organization, being bilingual, and her commitment to the church."

Meanwhile, Clark comes to the Office of Stewardship and Development after 15 years with Procter & Gamble Co. Clark worked in Hawaii from 1986 to 1999, the last four years as account executive and operations manager. He then moved to Rochester as Procter & Gamble's senior account executive and team leader assigned to Wegmans Food Markets.

Clark described his role within the Office of Stewardship of Development as a "generalist" who will work closely with schools, Catholic Charities and parishes. He also will be "heavily involved" in the annual Thanks Giving Appeal that kicks off in late September and early October.

"I enjoy working with the church and the people of God," said Clark, a parishioner of St. Rita's Church in Webster, and a Secular Franciscan. "I'm happy to be here, ready to go."

"Mark brings a lot of skills and personal traits that will suit him well. He'll be a good addition to the diocese," said Dan Healy, director of the stewardship/development office.

Clark assumes some responsibilities previously held by Jennifer Myszka, former director of annual giving, who left her position last December. Yet Clark noted that Myszka's role was almost strictly aimed toward the Thanks Giving Appeal, whereas he — in the role of associate director — will work closely with Healy in several fundraising initiatives as well as the TGA.

Healy, who began as director last November, said the collaborative effort between him and Clark will help make the office "more efficient and service oriented."

Cannon to leave diocesan post

Kathleen Cannon, the diocese's director of Parish Support Ministries, has resigned effective Oct. 1.

"My resignation was a prayerfully made decision and one in which I believe the Lord is directing me," she stated in a diocesan news release.

"I think it will be good for me, and good for the Church of Rochester, to have new leadership in this position," she said.

In her latest role she oversaw liturgy, black ministries, Asian-Pacific Ministries, Spanish apostolate, interdiocesan Hispanic migrant ministry, ecumenical and interreligious affairs office and at one time, the tribunal.

She re-designed and convened the Diocesan Commission of Women in Church and Society, and helped create the position of coordinator for response to domestic violence.

Cannon has served for 18 years in leadership positions within the diocese. She began in 1983 as religious education coordinator at St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Rochester. She coordinated the Urban Subsidy Program, which distributed grants for urban parishes. In 1990 she assessed the Asian-Pacific Catholic presence and min-

istry, and helped establish and oversee the Diocesan Asian-Pacific Apostolate Office.

In 1991 Cannon became director of urban services, and oversaw the Hispanic, Asian-Pacific and Black Ministries apostolates, Urban Services Grant program, deaf ministries, and service to and with the diocese's urban parishes, which numbered 33.

Cannon also was Synod implementation coordinator. The Synod Office was merged with Parish Support Ministries when she became director of the latter in 1996.

She served as temporary co-administrator of Corpus Christi Parish in 1998, between the firing of Father James B. Callan and the assignment of Father Daniel McMullin as pastor.

"Kathy has been a tireless worker, a fearless advocate and a tremendous asset for our local church, excelling in every task that was asked of her over the years," stated Father Joseph Hart, a diocesan vicar general and Pastoral Center moderator.

Cannon said she plans to take several months off "to rejuvenate."

The diocese will search for a successor. It also will announce a finalist for a new position of associate director of Parish Support Ministries, by Sept. 1.

Paper seeks views online

Starting today, the *Catholic Courier* is conducting a reader survey as part of a nationwide project in association with the National Newspaper Association. We would appreciate your opinion on the content of the *Catholic Courier*, what you read, don't read and how you perceive the paper in general.

The survey also asks questions about your spending habits, where you like to shop and what types of items you purchase most frequently. Why? So our advertising staff can show prospective clients that advertising in the *Catholic Courier* is a wise investment.

Over the past year, we've made major strides in reversing an advertising decline of the late 1990s that caused us to cut back the number of pages in our average issue. The purchasing information you provide on this survey will help our advertising staff do even better and, we hope, increase the size of future *Courier* issues while holding subscription costs steady.

Answering the questions will take 10 minutes of your time, but it will offer many long-term benefits. The survey will provide crucial, candid information — what our strengths are and where we have weaknesses.

Please be candid. Criticize us if you wish (constructively, that is). Only by getting honest feedback can we make improvements that will better serve your needs.

The results will be tabulated by Pulse Research, a nationally respected, independent newspaper research firm in Portland, Ore. Survey results will be used by everyone at the *Catholic Courier*, and serve as an update to the extensive reader survey we conducted in 1999.

This is the first time the *Courier* has conducted a reader survey over the Internet. Prior surveys have been done by mail. Due to an explosion in Internet usage over the past couple of years, Pulse tell us that Internet users are now representative of the population as a whole. Online surveys are also a lot less expensive than those done by mail or telephone.

Participating in this survey is secure and private. Log on to www.pulseresearch.com/catholiccourier and tell us what you think.

As a way of thanking you, you will be entered in a drawing for a first-place cash prize of \$3,000, \$1,000 for second, and \$500 each for third and fourth places. Pulse Research will be offering a total of \$5,000 in cash prizes. Winners will be selected from all respondents to the *Catholic Courier* survey and those of more than 100 other papers participating in this project, sponsored by the National Newspaper Association.

You will need to provide your name and e-mail address to enter the drawing. This information will not be connected to any other information you provide in the survey, and it will not be provided to the *Courier*. Pulse Research has promised us that the names and e-mail addresses will be used for no purpose other than the drawing, and will be discarded when the drawing is complete.

Clarification

Father William G. Endres, who was assigned as sacramental minister to Strong Health facilities effective July 1, is serving concurrently as sacramental minister at St. Andrew and St. Philip Neri parishes in Rochester.