

DIOCESAN NEWS

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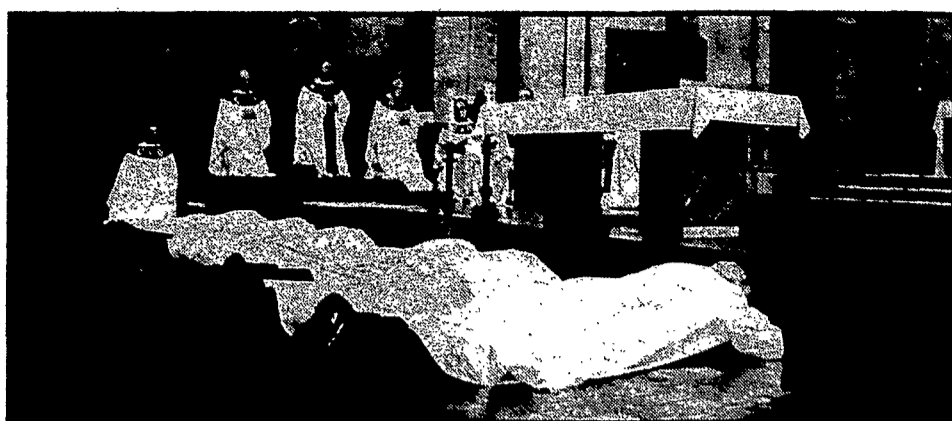


Looks like you need us.

Finding time to meet the needs of an older adult or person with disabilities can be difficult. To help, St. Ann's Community offers two levels of adult day services at three convenient locations. Home & Heart provides nutritious meals, recreational activities and a variety of support services. For those in need of skilled medical care there's Home Connection with everything from physical therapy to dietary counseling. Even transportation. To learn more and register for a complimentary day, call 697-6361 or visit www.stannscommunity.com.



ST. ANN'S
ADULT DAY SERVICES
Full of Life



File photo

Six deacon candidates lay prostrate during the June, 2001, deacon ordinations at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Four to become deacons

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will ordain four men as permanent deacons on Saturday, June 8, during a 10:30 a.m. liturgy at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The four men are **John Crego**, 59, of St. Theodore's Parish in Gates; **George Dardess**, 59, of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Rochester; **Lynn Kershner**, 61, of Sacred Heart Cathedral; and **John W. Nelson**, 58, of Christ the King Parish in Irondequoit.

John Crego, a purchasing manager at an electronics company, grew up attending St. John the Evangelist Church and school in Rochester. Crego also attended Monroe High School and Empire State College in Rochester. He served in the U.S. Army from 1968-71.

He and his wife, Patricia, have five children and three grandchildren. Crego said he felt called to the permanent diaconate five or six years ago.

"I think being an ordained person you become a public representative of the church, and I think it gives me an opportunity to strengthen my own spirituality."

During his years of training for the diaconate, Crego spent time serving at Bethany House, a Catholic Worker facility for women and children. While there, Crego said he did everything from cut the grass to pray with guests.

"It's a situation where these people have had a difficult time, and we have an opportunity to give some dignity and value to their lives," he said.

He added that when he becomes a deacon, he hopes to continue to serve society's "poor and marginalized."

George Dardess retired from a career of teaching English literature after working at Rutgers and Tufts universities in the 1960s and '70s, and then at Allendale Columbia School, a college preparatory school in Rochester. He grew up near Albany, and is a 1964 graduate of Amherst College in Massachusetts. He earned his doctorate in English literature from Rutgers.

Dardess said he grew up "secular," and then converted to Catholicism in 1983. He said becoming a deacon is part of fulfilling his "baptismal identity."

"God did a wonderful thing with this sinner, and I'm still trying to figure out what it was," he said of his conversion.

Dardess added that he was attracted to the diaconate because of its prophetic nature.

"It makes us understand that our mission is to the places that are broken in the world," he said.

One such place is the world of the migrant laborer, he noted, pointing out that he hopes to serve the migrant community after ordination. He is currently working on a foundation-funded effort to examine diocesan migrant ministry, which he said will be taking some new directions in the coming year. Diocesan migrant ministry efforts originally were set up to deal with a settled population, he said, yet the population in the late '90s became more transient and, for the most part, undocumented. Migrant ministers are considering such

new initiatives as setting up a safe house for women because more and more Mexican female workers are coming to New York without their families and are vulnerable to abuse, he said.

Dardess said he also ministered to hospital patients and has worked on improving relations between Christians and Muslims through the Greater Rochester Community of Churches, an ecumenical organization to which the diocese belongs.

Dardess is married to Peggy Rosenthal, an author who has written on the subject of poetry and spirituality. The couple has one son and two grandchildren.

Married for 38 years to his wife, Marguerite, Lynn Kershner has four children with her and two grandchildren. For the past 18 months, he has been donor relations clerk with the diocesan Office of Stewardship and Development and said his primary job is monitoring the Thanks Giving Appeal donor base.

Prior to joining the diocese, Kershner worked as a paralegal in the 1990s, and as computer analyst for Eastman Kodak Co. from the 1960s through the early '90s. Born in Colorado, he attended the University of Utah in Salt Lake City in the early '60s, and served with the Air Force from 1963-67 before coming to Kodak.

Among his field-work assignments as a deacon candidate, Kershner worked at area correctional facilities. He said that while he wants to work with parishes after ordination, he also wants to continue his ministry to prisoners.

"They are people, and God does live inside (jailhouse) walls, and I became very aware of that association with these men," he said. "(Inmates) need to know that people care, and some of them have never known love in their life, and I want to bring some of that to them."

New Jersey native John W. Nelson and his wife of 35 years, Katherine, have four children and two grandchildren. A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, he holds master's degrees in business administration and theology, and served with the U.S. Navy from 1965-67.

Nelson has attended Christ the King Parish for 32 years, and is a retired financial manager from Xerox Corp. During his training for the diaconate, he did field work ministering to hospital patients, as well as women and children. His work sites have included a foster care home and Bethany House.

"In these experiences I have been blessed to meet people in situations from backgrounds that I have not experienced before," he said. "These encounters and people have enabled me to understand how incredibly blessed I have been all my life. I hope that through my service as a deacon I can share the many blessings God has showered upon me with those whom I meet on my journey and also continue to learn from them."

Nelson said various people and events made him feel that he was being called to the diaconate. He added that after ordination, he hopes to serve as a minister both to the church itself and to others through the church's outreach efforts.