

DIOCESAN NEWS

CFC offices relocate near old St. Joseph's

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Catholic Family Center, located for the last decade at 25 Franklin St. in Rochester, moved April 1 to the Michaels Stern Building, 87 N. Clinton Ave.

The human-service agency made the move from its seventh-floor location on Franklin Street in order to become more easily accessible to the public, according to Carolyn Portanova, CFC's president and chief executive officer.

"We needed places for people to park, to unload passengers," she said. "We had no presence on the street."

Although she stressed that CFC had no problems with its former landlord, Portanova said a long-term lease at the new location has qualified the agency for lower rent than it paid on Franklin Street.

In the new location, which is still under reconstruction, CFC's direct-services offices — the departments of elder services and refugee, immigration and employment services — are located on the first floor of the seven-story structure. Administration offices are located on the second floor, and Catholic Youth Organization and children and family services

offices are on the third.

Parking was at a premium around the old site, Portanova said, which was located on a busy section of East Main Street across from Midtown Mall. At the new site, the city of Rochester has added handicapped parking areas around the building, Portanova said, and the CFC offices are located across from a parking garage.

She added that CFC will now be able to make itself more visible through sign placement, something it was unable to do previously, given its seventh-floor location on Franklin Street.

The new CFC offices are kitty-corner from the now-defunct St. Joseph's Church, the city's first German parish, founded in 1836. Portanova's office looks out on the church's shell, which anchors a small city park. The church was destroyed by a fire in 1974, and its shell is a well-known landmark in the city. At the time of its destruction, it was the oldest continuously operating parish in the city. Portanova said the agency staff was excited to be located across from a historic Catholic landmark.

"It's very appropriate for us to be here," she said. "This kind of feels like it's a special corner and a special place."



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

Carolyn Portanova, president and chief executive officer of Catholic Family Center, sits in the boardroom of CFC's new office at 87 N. Clinton Ave., overlooking the former St. Joseph's Church.

CFC is working with neighboring businesses and offices to organize a neighborhood cleanup day on May 1, coinciding with United Way of Rochester's Day of Caring. CFC is the local United Way's largest recipient of funds. Portanova said her agency has agreed to donate employee labor to help spruce up the park across the street through planting and other activities.

"We have plans and dreams to revitalize the neighborhood," she said.

CFC serves almost 60,000 clients a year, and operates under the auspices of the Diocese of Rochester's Catholic Charities. CFC provides various services, including offering shelter for the homeless, advocating for low-income workers, resettling refugees, counseling welfare-to-work clients, and aiding seniors.

Deacons to celebrate

The permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Rochester will celebrate its 20th anniversary during a "Day With the Bishop" at Monroe Community Hospital in Rochester on Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Guests at the deacons' annual convocation include dinner speaker Msgr. George Cocuzzi, founding director of the diocese's permanent diaconate program, and afternoon presenter William T. Donovan, author of *The Sacrament of Service: Understanding Diaconal Spirituality*.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark ordained the diocese's first class of 24 permanent deacons on April 17, 1982. He has ordained a total of 143 men to the permanent diaconate. Bishop Clark's predecessor, the late Bishop Joseph L. Hogan, called for the establishment of the permanent diaconate in the diocese through his 1975 pastoral letter *You Are Living Stones*.

The permanent diaconate, a feature of the ancient church, was restored in the universal church following the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s. Currently, almost 13,000 deacons minister in the U.S. church. Permanent deacons, most often married men, perform such duties as preaching, teaching and baptizing; witnessing marriages; presiding at funerals and weddings; conducting retreats and counseling sessions; and doing acts of charity and justice.

According to Deacon David Palma, director of the diocese's Office of Deacon Personnel, diaconal candidates undergo four years of training. This training consists of theological preparation, spiritual work, development of ministerial skills, field work and formation into the community of deacons. Deacon Palma said, adding that many deacons complete master's degrees in theology.

In a press statement, Deacon Palma said he greatly admired the first class of diocesan deacons.

"It was a very difficult being the first group of men engaged in the process," he said. "I think they did a wonderful job in establishing the min-

Obituaries

Father Patrick Grace served with U.S. Navy

Father Patrick Grace, a Rochester native who served as a Navy chaplain for most of his career, died in his home in San Diego, Calif., on April 13, 2002. He was 77.

The son of George J. and Bridget Reid Grace, he grew up attending Immaculate Conception church and school in Rochester. He attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, and was ordained a diocesan priest on June 11, 1949, at Sacred Heart Cathedral by Bishop James E. Kearney.

Father Grace then served at St. Monica's Parish in Rochester until becoming a U.S. Navy chaplain in 1953. He served on ships that sailed the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and that ventured to Japan, Hawaii, Vietnam and throughout the Northern Hemisphere. He retired with the rank of captain in 1974.



In a 1999 interview with the *Catholic Courier* on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of his ordination, Father Grace said military chaplains are important to servicemen and women because they

are often a source of stability for people with few civilian ties. "As the Catholic chaplain I was the church. I was priest, bishop, pastor, everything wherever I went," he remarked about his years in the Navy.

After leaving the Navy, he lived in San Diego, where he served as a chaplain of a girls' high school and a hospital. He also worked with Worldwide Marriage Encounter and assisted at a parish in Ocean Beach.

Father Grace is survived by his brother, George, and sister, Anne Herzog, both of Rochester, and nieces and nephews.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will preside at a funeral Mass for Father Grace on Wednesday, April 24, at 11 a.m., in St. Pius Tenth Church in Chili. Father Edward Steinkirchner, priest-in-residence at St. Jerome's Parish in East Rochester, was ordained along with Father Grace and will speak at his funeral Mass.

"He was a very outgoing, joyful man, and he shared that wherever he went," Father Steinkirchner said, adding that the priest loved serving the Navy.

"He did the work and did it well and enjoyed it."

Interment will take place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester.

— Rob Cullivan

Father Gerard Leicht, 82; in Hawaii for 56 years

Father Gerard Leicht, a Rochester native whose ministry in the order of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary spanned more than half a century, died Jan. 24, 2002, in Honolulu, Hawaii. He was 82.

Father Leicht was a graduate of Rochester's Holy Redeemer School and St. Andrew's Seminary. He went on to attend Sacred Hearts Seminary in Washington, D.C., and was ordained in 1945.

He served for the next 56 years in the Hawaiian Islands. Among his parish assignments were pastorates at St. Mary, Hana, and St. Ann, Kaneohe. He also taught at the Sacred Hearts Seminary in Haula for five years.

In addition, Father Leicht served as



spiritual director with the following organizations: Chinese Catholic Club; Living Rosary; Holy Name Society; Knights of Columbus; Legion of Mary; and Cursillo Movement. He was

founder of the Nocturnal Adoration Society at St. Peter and Paul Parish, Honolulu. He was an outspoken pro-life advocate; a longtime promoter of eucharistic adoration; and initiator and celebrant of the first diocesan-approved weekly Latin Masses following the Second Vatican Council.

"Father Gerard will be remembered for his uncompromising love for life and the values that protect and enhance life," stated Father Clyde Guerreiro, superior of the Sacred Hearts Fathers and Brothers in Hawaii. "His enthusiasm for the people of the church of Hawaii was marked by high energy and a deep sense of service. His courage and convictions were legendary."

Father Leicht is survived by a sister, Antoinette (Austin) DeBerger; sisters-in-law, Anna and Bernice Leicht; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

— Mike Latona



Catholic Family Center

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Catholic Family Center's Pregnancy Hotline

CALL 1-800-CARE-002

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