

DIOCESAN NEWS

Bishop blesses Courier's new office



Bishop Matthew H. Clark blesses the office of *Catholic Courier* General Manager/Editor Karen Franz (left) May 1. Sister Mary Ann Binsack, RSM, holds a bowl of holy water for the bishop.



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

Father Robert McNamara follows the program as Bishop Clark (background) blesses the new *Courier* offices.

Obituary

Kollar influenced councils, professionals

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Judith A. Kollar, whose efforts helped to form parish councils throughout the Diocese of Rochester and to develop St. Bernard Institute's "On the Road" lecture series, died on May 4 at her home in Canandaigua. She was 60.

Sister Patricia Schoelles, SSJ, president of St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry, the institute's new name, said Mrs. Kollar would be sorely missed by the school, where she served as director of continuing education from 1995-2001.

"As a colleague and adviser, Judy was impeccable," Sister Schoelles said. "She had a unique perspective in knowing both the national church and the local church. She had insight into the needs and possibilities of parishes, their staffs and the diocese."

Sister Schoelles added that she will also miss Mrs. Kollar on a personal level.

"For those of us who worked with Judy, it will be her cheerfulness, generosity, un-failing optimism and love of life that will remain with us," she said. "Judy leaves a huge hole in our lives, but the way she lived fills all of us with knowledge ahead of time about what life eternal looks like."

Calling hours will take place on Thursday, May 9, from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. at Lucey-VanVoorhis Funeral Home Inc., 301 W. Main St., Victor. Bishop Matthew H. Clark will preside at her funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, 95 N. Main



St., Canandaigua. Interment will take place at Webster Rural Cemetery.

A native of New Orleans, La., Mrs. Kollar, whose maiden name was Gennusa, earned

a bachelor's degree in social studies from New Orleans' Loyola University of the South in 1965. She then earned a master's degree in religious education from Loyola University in Chicago in 1972. She was married in Boston on May 3, 1972, to Nathan R. Kollar, currently a professor of religious studies at St. John Fisher College in Rochester. The couple has lived in Webster, Pittsford and Canandaigua.

Prior to coming to the Diocese of Rochester, Mrs. Kollar had worked as both an elementary and religious educator in Louisiana, Texas and Canada. When she arrived here, she took up the work of helping parishes respond to then-Bishop Joseph L. Hogan's request that they form parish pastoral councils following the Second Vatican Council. She served as diocesan consultant for parish council education committees from 1974-79.

"She visited every parish in the diocese, helping them learn the necessary skills and knowledge for collegial action in a parish," her husband, Nathan, said. He added that she was often mistaken for a religious sister because she was one of the first lay professional women to work with parishes on be-

half of the diocese.

From 1979-85, Mrs. Kollar served as executive secretary of the Diocesan Pastoral Council, a consultative body that regularly met with the bishop, and comprised lay, religious and ordained members. In 1985, she became the diocese's director of continuing education, a position she held until becoming diocesan director of professional development in 1992.

She held that position until moving to St. Bernard's. Diocesan Vice Chancellor Sister Mary Ann Binsack, RSM, who headed faith development ministries for the diocese in the 1990s, worked with Mrs. Kollar. "She probably was one of the most energetic and optimistic persons I've ever met," Sister Binsack said. "I think she loved life and brought enthusiasm and compassion to all she undertook."

In addition to her positions with the diocese, Mrs. Kollar was well known in national church circles and served with various organizations and boards. She also wrote the book *User Friendly Parish: Becoming a More Welcoming Community*, and was a regular contributor to *Today's Parish*.

Mrs. Kollar was predeceased by her son, Nathan Rudy Kollar. In addition to her husband, she is survived by her children David (Carrie) Kollar; her daughter Sharon Kollar; and two brothers, V.J. (Joann) Gennusa; and Michael (Terry) Gennusa.

Memorial donations may be sent to St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, 402 South Ave., Rochester, NY 14620.

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Retreats & Spirituality Centers coming June 27

This issue will give retreat and spirituality centers ample opportunity to heighten awareness of their programs. It will discuss the benefits of participating in spiritual programs and retreats, and help readers determine whether such programs are right for them. In addition to the opportunity for display advertising, this issue will include a directory of retreat and spirituality centers in the Diocese of Rochester.

Recognizing

* Catholic Charities Community Services recently selected new board members. They are: Dr. Thomas R. Allen, a teacher in the Rochester City School District; Mark R. Blair of Citibank; and community activist/volunteer Yolanda Ortiz. Appointed as officers were Carol Mordaci, chair; Mark Walton, vice chair; Patricia Ulesky-Pomer, treasurer; and Todd Gunther, secretary.

* Brienne Briggs, a junior at Bishop Kearney High School and a parishioner of St. Joseph's in Penfield, has been selected to attend the 2002 summer session of the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine that will be held in Boston. She was chosen based on her high academic standing, leadership potential and interest in pursuing a career in medicine.

* Jeanne Kidera, a student at John Carroll University in Cleveland and parishioner of St. Thomas More in Brighton, has been inducted into the Lambda Pi Eta, the national communications honor society. To be considered, students must have a communications grade-point average of 3.25 or higher. Kidera served as an intern at the *Catholic Courier* in the summer of 2001.

* Four people were honored at the Inaugural Works of Love Award Dinner sponsored by the Cayuga County Advisory Council of Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes. The event was held April 10 at the Sunset Restaurant in Auburn. Receiving awards were Theresa and Ted Krakuski from St. Patrick's Church in Gato; Larry Ware from the Salvation Army; and Marlene Gaykendall from the Owasco Reformed Church.

* Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes will honor three people at its eighth annual Sharing the Light Award Dinner on June 4 at Club 86 in Geneva. Honorees are Jane H. Gerling of Geneva; Deacon Claude E. Lester of Canandaigua; and Bradford M. Jones of Seneca Falls. Bishop Matthew H. Clark is scheduled to attend the event as well.

* More than \$100,000 worth of chocolates were sold during the annual candy sale by School of the Holy Childhood in Henrietta. The top salespeople included adult consumer Jennifer Butwid of Pittsford and student Theresa Girvin of Gates. Student Michael Peworchik of Spencerport took third place. Combined, these people alone sold more than \$13,000 worth of candy. Proceeds will assist Holy Childhood's programs and services for adults and children with developmental disabilities.

* St. Ann's Community has been named recipient of three "Communicator Awards." This honor recognizes outstanding work in the communications field. St. Ann's received awards of distinction for its advertising campaign for Chapel Oaks; for the St. Ann's Community Web site; and for the logo design for its new community, Cherry Ridge in Webster.

* Two students at Our Lady of Mercy High School are among the five winners in the Donor-Life poster contest, sponsored by the Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network and Rochester Eye and Human Parts Bank. The grand-prize winner was Christina Nordquist, a freshman at Mercy. Liz Flecha, also a freshman, received honorable mention.