

# Bishop rejects call to resign by abuse activists

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has rejected a call for his resignation by members of The Linkup, a national group of clerical-abuse victims and supporters. The Diocese of Rochester also disputed the group's charge that the bishop permitted an alleged abuser from another diocese to live in a parish rectory.

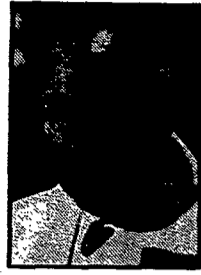
Michael Tedesco, director of communications for the Diocese of Rochester, said the bishop learned of The Linkup's call for his resignation through news reports, and that the diocese has attempted to contact group members without success.

According to area media, two members of The Linkup spoke outside Sacred Heart

Cathedral on June 1. One member, Marianne Barone Trent, an Oswego resident, reportedly said she wanted the bishop to resign because he had permitted Daniel Casey, formerly a priest of the Diocese of Syracuse, to live in the rectory of Rochester's St. Monica's Parish in 1993.

Casey had resigned from the priesthood after allegations were made that he abused three boys between 1987 and 1989 while serving as pastor of an Oswego parish. Two of the boys were reportedly Barone Trent's sons. In 1998, the Syracuse diocese settled two multimillion dollar lawsuits related to Casey, and paid out \$475,000.

Casey apparently came to Rochester at the invitation of a friend, Tedesco said, and "it should be made very clear that (Casey) did not come here at the invitation of the



bishop. (Casey) never did anything with our sanction." Tedesco said that when Bishop Clark learned Casey was living in the St. Monica's rectory, he asked him to leave immediately, which he did.

Casey died in January, 2000, while leading a tour in Israel. A biblical instructor, he had been known in the Rochester area for giving workshops and seminars on the subjects of biblical archaeology and women in the Bible.

The *Catholic Courier* placed several calls to Barone Trent, but none were returned. The Linkup members also reportedly com-

plained to area media about a lay employee of Rochester's McQuaid Jesuit High School. The *Courier* contacted McQuaid for comment and learned that the individual in question is no longer employed there.

Tedesco noted that McQuaid is not operated by the diocese and that the bishop does not control hiring for the school. A diocesan statement rejecting the call for Bishop Clark's resignation defended his record regarding sexual abuse by clergy. The statement noted that the bishop had written on the subject as early as 1990, and "has long been one of the leading advocates for victims of sexual abuse by clergy."

"Bishop Clark's longstanding policy has been that no priest against whom credible

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Illustration courtesy of Laurence Behr

This artist's rendering depicts the Arch of Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the International Shrine of the Holy Innocents, which is to be built in Buffalo.

## Paying tribute to Mary

Buffalo attorney Laurence Behr has a dream. Behr, a Rochester native and 1969 Aquinas Institute graduate, envisions the construction of a 700-foot-tall, golden arch dedicated to the Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The arch — which would replace the 630-foot-tall Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Mo., as the tallest monument in the world — would overlook Lake Erie in Buffalo, within sight of the Niagara Falls and the Canadian border. At the arch's base would be an international, pro-life shrine dedicated to the Holy Innocents — the children of Bethlehem whom King Herod's men slaughtered in their quest to kill the baby Jesus.

Behr has shared his dream with Catholics around the world, and the idea is rapidly gaining support. According to information at [www.archoftriumph.org](http://www.archoftriumph.org), the Web site for Behr's nonprofit group, the Association for the Arch of Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the International Shrine of the Holy Innocents, 25 chapters of the association have formed worldwide, including three in the Diocese of Rochester. And in April, the Buffalo Common Council unanimously passed a resolution showing its support for the project.

As Behr's idea continues to gain momentum, he is in the process

of establishing more chapters and planning fundraising campaigns to make his \$100 million dream a reality.

### Divine inspiration

It literally was a dream that first inspired Behr to pursue this project.

In September of 2000, Behr said he was reading an article in the magazine *The Shrine of the Holy House of Loreto*. The article, entitled "The Pastoral Importance of Shrines," described how all shrines have a pastoral message. The next morning, he said he dreamed that he was on a bridge, looking over its side at a valley. To the left were decaying, dilapidated buildings. To the right

it was beautiful and green. Where it was beautiful and green, he saw a stone church with a golden statue of St. Mary in the front of it.

In his dream, he said he left the bridge and followed a stone path to the church. Along the way, he met a woman and asked her what the church was. She replied, "This is the shrine of the golden arch of St. Mary."

Just before he awoke from his dream, Behr said he saw a golden

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