

# Five men to join diaconate

Bishop Clark to ordain candidates on May 31

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will ordain five men to the permanent diaconate during a 10:30 a.m. Mass on Saturday, May 31, at Rochester's Sacred Heart Cathedral.

The five men are: **John Brasley** of Sacred Heart Cathedral; **William C. Lenhart** of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Hamlin; **James B. Nail** of St. Mary of the Lake in Ontario; **Daniel J. Pavlina** of Schuyler Catholic Community, which comprises St. Benedict's in Odessa and St. Mary of the Lake in Watkins Glen; and **George "Ricky" Roy** of St. Benedict's, Odessa.

Brasley, 43, is a public defender and children's advocate in the courts. He and his wife, Belinda, currently work together in ministry to engaged and married couples and also serve as spiritual directors for Family Camp at Camp Coinonia, Italy Valley.

"I have been very blessed in my life, and I want to become a deacon out of a sense of thanksgiving," he said. "I want to more fully bring the good news of salvation to those who long to hear it. I think I can do this best through diaconal service."

Lenhart, 49, is a research scientist for Eastman Kodak Company. He and his wife, Kathie, have been active in a variety of capacities at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton over the past two decades. Lenhart has worked in senior, jail and parish ministry.

"Why did I decide to become a deacon? You know, I'm not really sure I ever decided," Lenhart said. "One



File photo

At last year's ordination of permanent deacons, George Dardess joins hands with Bishop Matthew H. Clark, as Sister Mary Ann Binsack, diocesan vice chancellor and administrator of the bishop's office, looks on.

feels called and one responds."

Nail, 55, is currently postmaster of Williamson, and is a former U.S. Marine who served in Vietnam from 1969-70. He and his wife, Karen, have worked together in marriage preparation as well as various other parish ministries. Nail has worked in prison and hospital ministry as well as ministry to people with developmental disabilities.

"I have experienced a deepening of faith and a call to serve others through service, the Word and through liturgy," Nail said about his vocation. "I was fortunate to have a close relationship with our parish deacon and witnessed how he and his wife were able to serve those on the fringe of society as well as those in our own parish."

Pavlina, 45, is computer-services coordinator for the Dundee Central School District. He and his wife, Jeanne, are active in their parish, and Jeanne serves as faith formation/youth coordinator for St. Mary's. Pavlina worked in parish and campus ministry as well as for the

Schuyler County office of Catholic Charities.

"I decided to become a deacon because I took the time to seriously listen to the readings and prayers during Mass one day, and heard a distinct call to service," Pavlina said. "Service is what grounds the entire spirituality of the diaconate, and so it sounded like a good fit. After talking to several deacons, I realized that this was the path I wanted to take."

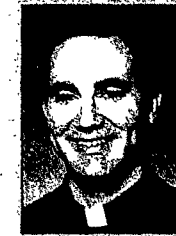
Roy, 49, is an equipment technician in the elementary particle physics laboratory at Cornell University. His wife, Nancy, and their children have all been active in diocesan and parish ministry. Roy has served in hospital, campus and parish ministry as well as social outreach. A convert to Catholicism from the Episcopal Church, Roy said entering the permanent diaconate is simply the latest step in his faith journey.

"I've been involved in lay ministry inside and outside my parish for about 20 years," he said. "I expect to continue some of those with the added dimension of being a deacon."

## 32-YEAR-OLD BECOMES TRANSITIONAL DEACON

Deacon William Coffas is bubbling with enthusiasm as he enters his final year of preparation for priesthood in the Diocese of Rochester.

"I'm filled with a great sense of optimism and hope that the



coming years will be a time of continuing to appreciate this call to serve," Deacon Coffas said.

He was ordained to the diaconate on April 5 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. He's wrapping up his third year of seminary training at Washington's Theological College, located at Catholic University of America. Beginning May 26, Deacon Coffas will spend the summer gaining pastoral experience at St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Mendon. He will then return to Washington for a final year of studies before being ordained a priest in Rochester during June 2004.

Deacon Coffas, 32, grew up in St. Ambrose Parish in Rochester. After his 1994 graduation from Rochester Institute of Technology he worked in the human-services field, helping people with disabilities find employment.

In 1997 he entered Becket Hall, the diocesan pre-theology program. From May 2001 to May 2002 he spent his pastoral year at St. Mary's Parish in Auburn. Deacon Coffas credits the parish communities and priests whom he's come to know, along with Bishop Matthew H. Clark, for being inspirational in his progression toward the priesthood.

"I serve with so many other wonderful people who model Christ for me," he said.

—Mike Latona

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