

Bishop blesses Pastoral Center

Bishop Matthew H. Clark blesses the newly renovated diocesan Pastoral Center on Buffalo Road in Gates Sept. 19. Bishop Clark also celebrated a Mass for Pastoral Center employees and joined them for a luncheon marking completion of the \$1.8 million project, which began in 2002. Diocesan ministries were relocated into temporary quarters in the building during renovations, which were paid for by funds from the estate of the late-Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey as well as an anonymous donor. The Pastoral Center originally was built in 1950 as the St. Andrew Junior Seminary and had undergone only minor updates in the intervening years.



Karin von Volgtlander/Catholic Courier

DIACONAL APPOINTMENTS

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following diaconal appointments, which became effective in July:

- **Deacon Nicholas Valvo** to pastoral associate, Sacred Heart, Auburn, from deacon, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Hyacinth, Auburn.

- **Deacon Stanley Douglas** to deacon, St. Cecilia, Irondequoit, from deacon, St. Rita, Webster.

Four deacons ordained May 31 have been appointed interns at the following parishes:

- **Deacon George (Ricky) Roy** to deacon intern, St. Catherine, Ithaca.

- **Deacon William Lenhart** to deacon intern, Good Shepherd, Henrietta.

- **Deacon Dan Pavlina** to deacon intern, Schuyler Catholic Community.

- **Deacon Jim Nail** to deacon intern, Catholic Community of Western Wayne County.

Interfaith-ecumenical meeting set

Representatives to talk about work, next steps

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

Sister Beth LeValley, board president of the Greater Rochester Community of Churches, is slated to speak at the diocesan Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs' fall convocation Monday, Oct. 6, from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Pastoral Center in Gates.

Sister LeValley, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph, is GRCC's first female board president as well as the first Catholic to lead the group, which comprises dozens of Christian congregations. Sister LeValley has headed GRCC's board since January 2000. GRCC is supported by several mainline denominations — including the Diocese of Rochester — and more than a score of religious-service organizations as well. Founded in 1991, GRCC has

been a prominent voice on such issues as fair housing, racism, economic development, and interfaith and ecumenical dialogue.

During her speech, Sister LeValley said she will ask the audience to share childhood experiences of other faiths, and will focus on what unites people of different beliefs.

"The whole thing about the common good and caring for the vulnerable are the core of all these faiths," she said. "If we concentrate on that, it's very simple to move together."

Bernard Grizard, diocesan director of the Office of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, said about 30 diocesan representatives to GRCC, the Interfaith Forum and the Jewish, Muslim and Orthodox communities are expected to attend the convocation. This is the second such convocation to take place in the diocese. The previous gathering took place at Irondequoit's St. Josaphat's Ukrainian Catholic Church in October 2002. Grizard said the diocese had planned

on holding the convocations semiannually, and still plans to do so in the future, but said a convocation planned for last May was supplanted by the signing of an historic agreement between Muslim and diocesan leaders.

In that agreement, leaders of the Diocese of Rochester, including Bishop Matthew H. Clark, and of the Council of Masajid (Mosques) of Rochester pledged mutual cooperation and support. Titled "An Agreement of Understanding and Cooperation," the document pledged both communities to respect each others' religious traditions; challenge religious and ethnic bigotry; and undertake efforts to foster mutual respect, including mutual outreach efforts, and the establishment of joint educational programs for children and adults. One idea the groups are considering is setting up meetings in which Catholic and Muslim families would discuss their faiths, Grizard said.

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