

Secretary retires from her 'ministry'

B11

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

If you've never equated secretarial duty with ministry, then you haven't spent enough time with Jeannie Raisbeck. With her laughter and dry sense of humor, it's easy to mistake Raisbeck's easygoing nature for that of your best friend.

In the Secretary's Gospel According to Jeannie, here's how one makes the job special rather than mundane: "First of all, she has to love in order to give to people. She has to be a listener. To give them what they need, she needs to just be caring," Raisbeck stated. "When you call and feel you've just talked to the secretary, that's someone where it's not their ministry — it's their job."

Her personal touch has been felt by countless people connected with diocesan youth ministry. However, despite Raisbeck's passion for her work, she will retire in late June from the Pastoral Center, where she's worked since 1990 following many years as a church secretary.

Raisbeck explained that she's 62 years old and her husband of 37 years, Tom, has been retired since 1994. "I feel it's time to enjoy my retirement with Tom. We plan to travel and enjoy our precious granddaughter, Jessica, and just coming and going as we please," said Raisbeck, whose only grandchild is 2 years old.

Raisbeck is a native of the former St. Lucy's Parish in Rochester. She was secretary from 1961-70 at Rochester's Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish; then, after raising her two children, she worked from 1980-90 at Holy Ghost Parish in Gates. The bulk of these two jobs were spent under the pastorate of Father Gennaro Ventura, a retired diocesan priest who is Raisbeck's close friend.

She has been involved in youth ministry throughout her 14 years at



Eric Sucar/Catholic Courier

Jeannie Raisbeck, who serves as a secretary in the diocesan Department of Evangelization and Catechesis, helps set out pizza, fruit and other snacks for participants in the May 8 Run for the Young. Raisbeck will retire from her position in late June.

the Pastoral Center. At times she has also supported sacramental catechesis and young-adult ministry as well as other programs within the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis.

Sylvia Mancuso, the department's other longtime secretary, said she will "tremendously" miss working with the person she refers to as her partner in crime.

"I don't want her to leave," Mancuso said. "We make a great team. It's really been fun — she might be an adult, but she's still a youth, too."

Raisbeck said the least favorite part of her job has been trying to get people to meet registration deadline for events. Her greatest satisfaction has come from "talking with people; knowing I accomplished something for them."

Raisbeck has also staffed the reg-

istration desk at many diocesan youth events. Michael Theisen, diocesan director of youth ministry, likens Raisbeck to a godmother, saying she "has helped our young people grow in faith, kept our parish leaders headed in the right direction and helped our whole staff from going crazy more than a few times."

Her enthusiasm also stems from

SeniorLife

her strong belief in the cause that she serves. "I just wish that, when my children were growing up, they had all these opportunities," said Raisbeck, a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Greece.

She has even taken her own personal time to staff a diocesan weekend teen retreat each spring. "It's something I love to do. It makes me feel so uplifted," she said. Theisen recalled Raisbeck's highly positive experience at her first retreat several years ago: "From that moment on, she could never turn away a teen from a retreat or other event, no matter how late the registration was. Of course, the young people loved her right back because they saw her as one their biggest advocates."

Raisbeck is already planning to volunteer at a retreat next April. She will also continue — on a stipend basis — as sponsor coordinator for Run for the Young, a diocesan fundraiser held each May.

The diocese is currently seeking a replacement for Raisbeck's position. However, Theisen said, that person will have quite an act to follow.

"There's no replacing her," he stated. "We'll just have to retire her shoes because there's certainly no filling them."

When Interest Income Counts, It's time to call GEN-SEE.

7.1%
Annually

Earn More,
Worry Less

Go with experience you can trust...

Since 1975, GEN-SEE investors have done better for
5 Great Reasons:

- Regular monthly checks • No fees or commissions
- Low minimum initial investment...\$5,000.00
- Term: 3, 4 or 5 years
- Rate of interest guaranteed for term of Certificate



Make a fresh start...
RIGHT NOW
7.1% Annually



Gen-See Capital Corporation

Call 1-800-507-4393

*The Sisters of Mercy
congratulate you on your
25th anniversary
as Bishop of Rochester*

"Thank you, Bishop Clark,
for your continued support of Catholic education."

THE AQUINAS INSTITUTE

1127 Dewey Avenue • Rochester, New York 14613

585-254-2020

www.aquinasinstitute.com

est. 1902