

Parish Update on Programs & Personnel: July 2003

CONEJO CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY DIRECTOR:

Adult education is the number one priority indicated by people in our Archdiocese. Our Conejo Catholic University has grown from 1,300 participants at two parishes to over 2,700 from four. Our goal next year is 10,000 people from six or more parishes. To help coordinate this growing adult education program I am happy to welcome **Dr. Laurie Garry**. She recently moved here along with her family from Oklahoma where she was the Chair of Theology at St. Gregory's University. Presently she is also an adjunct professor of religion at CLU. We are looking forward to a great year!

RCIA DIRECTOR

The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is our program for welcoming, teaching, and forming new converts to the faith. **Sr. Suzanne Ensminger**, our Director for the last several years, will move to the headquarters of her religious community at Mount St. Mary's College. We will miss her deep spirituality and prayerful presence. **Mike Lynch**, who was the RCIA Director for the last ten years at St. Maximilian Kolbe parish, will be our new Director here. He is also a new St. Paschal School parent. Mike has been active for years in church activities and presently serves on the Archdiocesan Synod Commission, which is leading the major goal setting process for the whole Archdiocese.

PARISH PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR

Wendy Gigliotti is a freelance writer with extensive experience in graphic arts and publication design. She will help design pamphlets, booklets, and other materials and will serve as an important resource for our parish ministries in "getting the word out" about all of our parish programs. Wendy will also be our bulletin editor, taking over from **Nicole Martin**, our dedicated and hard working former editor who will be free now for other ministries. Wendy will begin by supporting RCIA and Conejo Catholic University.

CONFIRMATION DIRECTOR TRANSITION

We are happy for **Mary Margaret Pollock** who was offered and has accepted the position of Director of Religious Education for St. Peter Claver parish in Simi Valley. St. Peter's is her home parish and this new position is a significant opportunity for her to further use her considerable talents to serve the Lord. We will deeply miss her here. **Joe Schnelldorfer**, our present Youth Director, will assume her duties as Confirmation Director for the present time. During this transition we will also survey our Confirmation families for their ideas about the program. Joe will continue as Youth Minister as well.

MUSIC AND CONCERT EVENTS

We are looking forward to a series of Christian music concerts for all ages in late August and early September, as well as the production of a CD featuring our several St. Paschal choirs. Stay tuned!

DEACONATE MINISTRIES

Deacon **Mitchell Ito**, who recently moved here with his family from Glendale, was ordained a Deacon in June. He will join Deacon **Jim Robinson** in serving here. Deacons can preach, baptize, preside at Vigils and Gravesides for the deceased, and witness weddings. Deacon Jim has been very helpful in leading our Bereavement ministry and many other projects. Deacon Mitch will begin by helping the RCI A and our Small Christian Communities; a great program that organizes small groups of couples to meet informally and discuss scripture and spirituality.

OTHER NEW FACES

Diane Schoenhofen, our former receptionist has retired to enjoy traveling around the country with her husband. We will miss her gracious hospitality. We are glad to welcome **Lisa West**, a former school parent, as our new receptionist. To help with facilities management we are also glad to welcome **Piotr (Peter) Reczek** who will work on weekends. We are very glad to have them both!

NEW ALTAR SCREEN

It has been a long time coming, but we will soon be ready to present a proposed model of the altar screen that is based on hundreds of ideas offered this last year. After the initial removal of the "sticks," I turned my focus toward the design and organization of the Conejo Catholic University. Now that that is running, I would like to return to the altar screen as the main priority. Thank you for your extraordinary patience. I am very happy with what we will offer soon.

NEW CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

For the last year I have been working with some wonderful St. Paschal's families in developing a plan for a co-ed Catholic high school. Recently, I have met with groups from Westlake, Simi Valley, and Camarillo, as well as a new religious order of priests, the **Legionnaires of Christ**, who specialize in education. Located primarily in the East, they are also chaplains here at Cal Tech. I have invited them to start visiting parishes here as a way of meeting people and getting to know the area. The whole project has a ways to go but I am thankful for the progress so far and for the enthusiastic support we have received from Bishop Thomas Curry, our regional Bishop.

NEW GRASS FIELD FOR PLAYGROUND AND PARKING

We would like to provide more parking on Sundays as well as safeguard the quality of our playing field. We are looking at plans to ensure its durability both for parking cars on Sunday and playing games on it by our students throughout the week.

-Fr. Dave

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