



FATHER ROGER J. Landry, right, discusses his vision for *The Anchor* during an interview with Deacon James N. Dunbar. Father Landry is the new executive editor of the diocesan publication. (*Anchor*/Jolivet photo)

Father Landry takes helm of *The Anchor* newspaper

BY DEACON JAMES N. DUNBAR

FALL RIVER — Following the same direction given St. Paul, who was told to put his preaching into print, Father Roger J. Landry became the executive editor of *The Anchor* over the holiday

weekend.

In his first interview after being appointed by Bishop George W. Coleman, Father Landry expressed his penchant for enthusiastically spreading the Gospel without being intimidated. He

called *The Anchor* the tool in the diocese's arsenal to bring God's words to the faithful, who in turn, should help in the incentive to spread that news in the local Church.

Turn to page 11 — *Anchor*



MEMBERS OF the American Association of the Order of Malta process into Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Osterville for its 11th annual summer Mass. Bishop Robert J. McManus of the Diocese of Worcester and Bishop George W. Coleman concelebrated. (*Anchor*/Gordon photo)

Order of Malta grant provides \$15,000 to aid Guaimaca Mission

BY MIKE GORDON
ANCHOR STAFF

OSTERVILLE — The American Association of the Order of Malta gathered June 24 at Our Lady of the Assumption Church for its 11th annual summer Mass, marking the solemnity of St. John the Baptist.

It was a special occasion for the

Knights and Dames of Malta and also the people of Guaimaca, Honduras as the diocese received a \$15,000 grant for the mission.

"We're very thankful," said Bishop George W. Coleman. "The Order of Malta does much good work for the sick and this money will provide for a medical doctor and

assist the Malta Milk Project by encouraging farmers to grow soya beans. More than 1,000 people seek help from the clinic each month and we're pleased to welcome them here to Cape Cod."

According to Father Paul Canuel, \$8,000 of the grant will be used to

Turn to page 16 — *Malta*

July 8, 2005

Dear Friends in Christ,

I am so very happy to report that our Catholic Charities Appeal has, once again, been a great success! Due to the generosity of the many donors who contributed to the Appeal, this annual diocesan effort to assist the needy has once again yielded an all-time high in the amount raised. These funds will allow us to continue to meet the needs of those who turn to the Church for help. On behalf of the less fortunate who will be assisted by this Appeal, I extend sentiments of heartfelt gratitude and esteem to all those who contributed to the Appeal and to all those who worked so hard to make the Appeal such a success. Through this united effort of the parishes throughout our diocese, we have answered the call to reach out and care for those in need. With genuine gratitude and appreciation, I am

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

Bishop of Fall River

Pro-Life Apostolate director well known throughout diocese

BY DEACON JAMES N. DUNBAR

NORTH DARTMOUTH — When people hear that Mrs. Marian Desrosiers is the "new" director of the Pro-Life Apostolate in the Fall River diocese, their first reaction is usually, "I thought she was."

Desrosiers is recognized as being at the forefront of the

diocese's Pro-Life movement that centers on Church teachings in regards to respect for life from the moment of natural conception to that of natural death.

During the past decade she has become well known as a popular leader, teacher, lecturer and author throughout the diocese and

Turn to page 12 — *Pro-Life*



SCENES LIKE this are familiar to those in the diocese involved with Pro-Life issues. Here Marian Desrosiers, the new diocesan Pro-Life director, attends a Respect Life event in Washington, D.C. with then Msgr. George W. Coleman and her son Stephen. (*Anchor* file photo)

Anchor

Continued from page one

"It's a tremendous responsibility being the executive editor. But there is great joy that whenever there is this kind of responsibility in the Church there is also God's grace to help one fulfill those obligations," he said.

With a smile, he added, "so I'm looking to an infusion of grace, not only because of the assignment here at diocesan newspaper, which runs itself pretty smoothly, but also as the youngest pastor in the diocese at one of the largest parishes in the diocese."

At age 35, and having been ordained only since 1999, it is a bit intimidating, he said. "But with God's grace all things are possible."

Father Landry succeeds Msgr. John F. Moore, who has been associated with the newspaper since 1967, for the past 28 years as an editor.

The new editor says he is beginning to realize that God's plan for him has placed him in times and experiences — some rather stormy — conducive to not only the pastorate, but also to being an editor and writing and managing a weekly newspaper.

One of those occurred after ordination when he was sent to Rome to study marriage and family at the John Paul II Institute, the first in the world to help priests and lay people serve families throughout the world better.

The program was due to be launched on May 13, 1981 — the same day that Pope John Paul II was shot by an assailant.

"You can see that the devil didn't want the work to get off the

ground," Father Landry commented. "But eventually it was founded and has made great progress."

The great importance of that study time for Father Landry, "was, that I learned a ton about taking the message of the Gospel and bringing it down to meet the modern challenges here in America. It is the same kind of a thing a Catholic newspaper needs, to be able to translate and make sense of the Church's teaching and how it is in accord or discord with modern events."

He said that when that message of hope is made accessible to people, "we find that people's hearts start to become alive."

"I've always enjoyed talking and writing," he said. "I think the faith is the greatest gift man has received. Like St. Paul says, 'woe to me if I don't preach the Gospel.'"

He feels a special camaraderie with Paul "who initially preached the Gospel orally, but later was asked by God to put that oral Gospel into writing in all his letters."

Father Landry said that since writing his op-ed piece "Putting Into The Deep" several months ago, he's discovered that God has helped him to hone the message by forcing him to write it in a more concise way.

He added, "Not only will it make me a better editor, a better priest and better speaker, but it will also allow me to show the great enthusiasm I have for God and the faith and share it with a wider audience."

And while he is new to *The Anchor*, he is not new to meeting

deadlines, defending opinions and weathering the frequent attacks writers and newsmen experience.

His journalistic baptism of fire came when he was a sophomore at Harvard in 1988.

The Catholic Church was not much respected at the crimson on the Charles, he said, so he and several friends, founded a magazine *Peninsula*.

"We called it that because although we felt surrounded on three sides by rough seas, we were still attached to the mainland, the core, of what was good about people. In our stories we tried to explain the Church's social teachings without ever referencing the fact that it was Catholic. It was just the common sense arguments people would use Saturday mornings at the corner near the barber-shop or at the supermarket. We passed on the truths of the faith on the most controversial issues of the day."

He said it taught him how to meet people where they were at.

"I had just come from the small community of Lowell, a very Catholic city. At Harvard I met persuasive proponents of abortion and homosexuality. I discovered that when people didn't understand as much as I thought they did, but how much against those issues many were, it was obvious that what they needed was the Gospel to set them free."

The collegiate writers found much opposition.

"Once, when we did a 56-page double issue on homosexuality, I had my picture pasted around campus and people were urged to insult me. There were even some death threats on my answering machine. My identical twin

brother, a classmate of mine, also received derision as a result. It made me realize I had a deep faith"

During a subsequent interview with the *Boston Globe*, the college student made it clear that he would not be intimidated from preaching the Gospel. "I guess it came from reading St. Paul and watching Pope John Paul II in and out of season preach the Gospel in front of Fidel Castro, the Sardinistas, and those in his native Poland."

And so the seeds were sown.

"The great mission of the Catholic newspaper is not only to cover the news, but to show the real meaning in the context of who we are, why we're here, and where God wants us to go," Father Landry asserted.

One of the great gifts here in Southeastern Massachusetts is that there is a great heritage of faith, he said.

"But those seeds need constantly to be watered; there is a need for us to dig furrows so that they will grow. And *The Anchor* is one of those tools that God has here in his arsenal in the local Church of Fall River, so that we might be able to create the context in which God's word is ever able to be more fruitful."

One of the things Father Landry looks to do in his tenure as editor is for the newspaper to become a greater symbol and agent of diocesan unity, of what

is going on.

"In the practice of the faith, the good things people do becomes contagious for others. I hope in covering the news to bring in some of the people already doing good work, to write occasional articles for our newspaper.

"It means that their good work, with God's help, will become a standard to which all other honest men and women in the diocese, can identify."

One of the difficult missions for the diocesan newspaper, is trying to become all things to all readers. We strive to do that, but we can't always do it well within our 16 pages."

He made it clear that *The Anchor* "is the newspaper of the people of the diocese. Sure, Bishop Coleman is the publisher. But people should be able to participate in the newspaper's mission as much as they'd like to. I want to make it as accessible as possible, so that good works being done in the diocese will shine to the glory of God the Father."

Calling attention to the digital age of computers, the Internet and Websites, Father Landry said he hopes that even as that broadens, "we too, through *The Anchor*, can advance Jesus' agenda, the Gospel, and that we need to mesh with making this information so readily available that everyone can proclaim the Gospel in their own local situations."



POPE BENEDICT XVI says Mass inside St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican June 29, when he bestowed the pallium on 32 archbishops from around the world. The pallium, a circular band of white wool marked with six black crosses, symbolizes the archbishop's authority and union with the pope. (CNS photo by Alessia Giuliani, Catholic Press Photo)

MISSION NEWS

*"We can only pay him
\$3.52 a month but he is like
a priceless gift to our people."*

So says Bishop Joseph Willigers of Jinja, Uganda, about Mathias, one of his catechists.

There are 185 full-time and 569 part-time catechists in Jinja. Each is willing to give of themselves because, as one catechist put it,

"We love Jesus Christ and know that but for our work of making Him known many of our people would not be reached at all with the 'Good News.'"

Won't you help catechists in the Missions, through the Propagation of the Faith, as they continue to bring the "Good News" of Jesus Christ to those most in need of Him?



The Society for THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH
...A Pontifical Mission Society

Attn: Column

Rev. Msgr. John J. Oliveira, V.E.
106 Illinois St., New Bedford, MA 02745

ANCH.07/08/05

\$100 \$50 \$25 \$10 Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Visit us at our "home" on the web:
www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org