

Alamosa Deanery celebrates Lay Formation Program graduates

ALAMOSA – In Alamosa on December 2, 2006 Bishop Tafoya celebrated with seven people who completed the Diocesan Faith and Leadership Ministry Formation program.

Bishop Tafoya was joined by Father Bill Gleeson in concelebrating the Mass. Deacon Charles Moss was present for the beginning of the celebration, but had to leave early due to an emergency call.

Richard Marquez and Michael Rasmussen completed parts one and two of the program and received a medallion and a certificate signifying their graduation from the New Wine program, which was the course of studies used in Diocesan Formation program.

The other five members completed the second part of the program and received a certificate for their work over a two year period.

Graduation and certificate ceremonies took place at Sacred Heart parish in Alamosa. A dinner reception followed with family and friends in the Parish Fireplace Room, which was decorated in a very festive manner for the Christmas season.

This is the final group to celebrate their graduation this year. A group of eleven celebrated in Pueblo on June 3rd. Seven graduated in Montrose August 26th, and eighteen celebrated in Durango October 28th.

The Leadership Ministry Formation program, called *New Wine*, offers basic foundations in theology, pastoral skills and personal faith development.

"It's the type of certification that the recently approved document recommends," said Bishop Tafoya. He explained, "Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord" reinforces the idea that the call to holiness through baptism is a call to ministry and urges verification of ministry to ensure it is in sync with the Catholic Church.

"This is not your ministry. It's the church's ministry," Bishop Tafoya said.

Graduates in all four locations have expressed gratitude for the program saying that it increased their knowledge about the Catholic faith, enhanced their spiritual growth, and increased their confidence when asked to be of service to the parish.

Trained teachers, including pastors, religious, and lay volunteers with theology backgrounds taught in the program.

In reviewing the last three years Sister Betty expressed gratitude to everyone connected with the program.

"It has been an awe inspiring journey," she said. "Getting to know so many wonderful and dedicated people committed to their faith was indeed a priceless experience. Having teachers willing to spend their Saturdays teaching groups at four different sites made the program possible."

Graduate and certificate participants in the Alamosa deanery represent two parishes. As graduates of the New Wine program, Richard Marquez and Michael Rasmussen represent Sacred Heart parish in Alamosa. Certificate recipients completing part II of the program include: Sacred Heart in Alamosa – Lucille DuPont, Geronimo Olivas, Lucie Ruybal Olivas; St. Joseph in Capulin – Joseph and Mary Jane Valdez.

Bishop Tafoya offered some words of advice to the new ministers ready to embark on a new journey in lay ministry. He said, "Whenever the Lord calls, it's never with full knowledge of what lies ahead."



New Wine Graduates from the Alamosa Deanery pose with Bishop Tafoya and Sister Betty Werner, Director of Lay Formation. Back row, l-r: Geronimo Olivas, Michael Rasmussen, Richard Marquez, Joseph Valdez. Front row, l-r: Sister Betty Werner, Lucie Ruybal Olivas, Lucille DuPont, Bishop Arthur Tafoya, Father Bill Gleeson, and Mary Jane Valdez.

Sister Betty Werner, Director of Lay Formation for the Diocese of Pueblo offered congratulations and support to the lay ministers.

She said, "It takes courage to answer the call to ministry. ... Candidates, we mostly assemble here today to publicly recognize and affirm your vocation to lay ministry. ... With that the Church of Pueblo recognizes your ministry as an official and valid vocation with the full support of the church."

Immaculate Heart of Mary hosts 10th annual fashion show

Story and Photo by Roxanne Schick

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE OF CATHOLIC LIFE

PAGOSA SPRINGS- Over 135 attended Immaculate Heart of Mary's 10th Annual Fashion Show and Luncheon on November 11, 2006. This year's show was titled "The American Women on Parade" and included evening, casual and sportswear modeled by parishioners.

The welcome and introduction were given by Winnie Pavlovich, chairperson of the eleven-member committee. The invocation followed by Father Don Malin from St. Mary's Church in Montrose.

The luncheon catered by Christine's Cuisines had a menu that included: grilled chicken salad on greens topped with Feta cheese and walnuts, assorted rolls and fruit-nut bread, with double chocolate Kaluah cake for dessert. Coffee, water and tea were the beverage choices.

A raffle was held with 35 gifts donated by businesses in Pagosa Springs and Chama. Proceeds from the Fashion Show are earmarked for improvements to Immaculate Heart of Mary. Entertainment in the form of dance was provided by Sharman Alto and David Snyder with John Graves as accompanist. Honor guard were Don Bartlett and Chris

Tauges.

Fashions were provided by local establishments and modeled by members of the parish.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Fashion Show and Luncheon Committee, l-r:

Mercy Korsgren, Jenny Bell, Fran O'Brien, Winnie Pavlovich, Carole Howard, Rusty Ryan, Arlyss Greenwood, Yvonne Ralston, Joan Slavinski, Mary Meyer and Marsha Prueit. Missing are Sandy Bramwell, Judy Cramer, June Giesen, Erma Mesa, Penny Planeta and Dahl Henley. Not pictured is Judy Gray.

One of the tables at the Fashion Show Luncheon. Far right: Announcer, Winnie Pavlovich, Chairperson, and John Graves accompanist.



DURANGO DEANERY NEWS



PUEBLO DEANERY NEWS

StepUp relocates to new space in the Annex of St. Mary Corwin



PUEBLO- The relocation of Pueblo StepUp, formerly Pueblo SET for Well Being and Pueblo Coalition for the Medically Underserved, is complete.

Their new offices are open and located on the ground floor of the St. Mary Corwin Medical

Center Medical Arts Annex building, on the east side of the hospital at 1925 E. Orman Avenue, Suite G-52.

Pueblo StepUp provides services for low income seniors and children of low income families. Services are provided through 11 monthly, free, senior wellness clinics,

which are brought to low income neighborhoods and housing authority sites; exercise programs for the elderly, (Children's Health Plan Plus) CHP+ services for health care for children of low income families, a dental outreach program, a Grandparents Raising Grandkids resource initiative and other programs.

The Durable Medical Equipment loan closet is

also available, with access to wheelchairs, tub transfer benches, walkers, etc. at low maintenance fees for short-term loan.

Pueblo StepUp also houses the EPSDT/Children's Medicaid program.

Cindy Lau is the executive director of the agency. The agency's full-time staff include: Kathleen Mattarocci,

R.N., BSN for Senior Wellness Clinics; Jo Stinchcomb, Exercise and Health Promotion for Senior Fitness programs; Chuck Lewis, DME Coordinator; Judith Boudreaux, Marketing/Program Development including Grandparents Raising Grandkids and 60+ART; Brenda LaCombe, Program Coordinator for CHP+

(Children's Health Plan Plus) and Children's Dental Outreach Coordinator; Kathy Chavez, Coordinator for EPSDT/Children's Medicaid; Pam Doyle, EPSDT Representative; Sharon Medina, EPSDT Representative.

Hours are 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Phone number is 719-560-5886.

