Communicating the gospel in a modern

By KAREN CUBIE
Gazette Staff Writer

John E. Kearns Jr. of Taunton was raised with strong Catholic roots, but when he was younger, he never thought he'd be employed by the Catholic Church.

On Aug. 1, however, the 25-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Kearns of 194 Eldridge St., will celebrate his second anniversary as assistant to the Fall River diocesan director of communications.

"I've learned the church is much more aware of its presence in the community than I was aware of," Kearns said. "I have a greater appreciation of the church now."

He got the job in June 1984, one year after his graduation from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a summa cum laude degree in communications studies.

"On June 10, 1984, I was attending the dedication of the Holy Rosary Parish Hall," he said. "It had just been completed. Bishop Daniel A. Cronin was there to dedicate it. He greeted all the parishioners, and when he talked to me, he asked what I was doing.

JOHN E. KEARNS JR.
Goals are changing

"I told him I was looking for a job. He told me the diocese was looking for someone. Two interviews later, I started on Aug. 1."

Kearns acts as a liason between the church and the media.

"I use the media to present the words of the gospels, news, and information from the diocese to parishioners," he said. "I deal with print, radio, cable, television, all through Bristol County, Attleboro, Cape Cod, Taunton, and the Islands. There are approximately 360,000 Catholics in this area."

Working with priests was a little intimidating at first.

"The director is a priest, the bishop is my boss," he said. "Father (John F.) Moore, the director of communications, is my main contact. At first, I was more sensitive. Now I'm relaxed.

"They're regular people to work with," he continued. "But I have a greater appreciation now for the variety of work priests do, and their commitment to their work."

When he first entered college, his goal was to someday work at a television station.

"I used to be more positive about what I wanted to do five, 10, 15 years from now," he said. "I'm not as certain now. I see more options.

"My goals are changing," he said. "I'm still determining what will happen 10 years from now."

The communications division is new to the Fall River Diocese, and Kearns is the first to hold its position.

"There's just the director and myself," he said. "(The diocese) is open to ideas, and they encourage me to go as far as I want to develop the department.

"This job is a good training situation for a lot of different things," he said. "I work with the press, the national radio, program organization, distributing tapes, and establishing rapport with cable programs.

"It's always changing," he continued. "I don't do the same thing day after day. Everything's new to me, and to the department."

The diocese job has been good for him.

"I'm growing in how I handle people and situations," he said. "I've become more confident of myself. That's a good foundation for anything you do along the lines of life. It's a necessary foundation for success."

The position has whetted Kearns' appetite for travel.

"They've sent me away to UNDA conferences, a world-wide Catholic comm with an annu workshop," he San Antonio, Boston, and Louisville."

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RELIGION TODAY

Sunday sermons

Rev. Harold E. Milner of the **First Baptist Church of Dighton** will speak on the sermon topic "The Joy of Salvation" at 9:30 a.m. worship services. Scripture is from Luke 19: 1-10.

"Personal Evangelism" is the sermon topic of Rev. Michael R. Lunsford at 10:30 a.m. services at the **Crossroads Christian Center.**

Rev. Paul Dow will speak on the topic "The Unforgettable Servant of God" at 9 a.m. services Sunday at the **East Taunton Congregational Church.** Scripture reading will be from Daniel 2: 14-30.

Rev. David Swensen has chosen "Finishing the Course" for his sermon topic at 11 a.m. services at the **Winthrop Street Baptist Church.** Scripture is from James 1: 1-12. The church will hold a Children's Day program at 6 p.m.

"To Whom Shall We Go?" is the sermon topic of Dr. Herbert R. Smith, interim minister at the **West Congregational Church.** Scripture is from St. John 6:68.

The **First Baptist Church of Raynham** will observe Children's Sunday at the 10:45 a.m. services Sunday. Sermon topic of Rev. Robert W. Peck for the evening services at 6 p.m. is "God Is Able" and the scripture message is from Hebrews 7: 18-25.

Church briefs

Picnic: The Yout Fellowship of the Myricks United Methodist Church will meet at 6 p.m. Sunday. An all-church picnic will be held at Watson Pond from 1 to 5:30 p.m.

The administrative council will meet Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the church and the choir will practice Wednesday at 7 p.m. An advanced set an agenda for the coming year.

Greeters: Mrs. Audrey Ramsay and Mrs. Frances Pearson will be greeters for Sunday services at the Memorial United Methodist Church. Choir will be directed by Charles H. Tripp.

The music committee, con-

Shrubs: The vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church will purchase a variety of shrubs for the front of the church building. Parishioners are invited to donate.

Coffee hour: A coffee hour will be held Sunday following worship services at the Union