

Bob, Kathy Ruginis named OLMC Feast chief marshals

The parish also announced Alex Cournoyer is this year's Faith in Action Award winner

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Special to the Phoenix

When the Rev. Henry P. Zinno Jr., pastor at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, announced that Bob and Kathy Ruginis had been his choices as chief marshals of the 2015 OLMC Feast Celebration, the couple admittedly was very surprised.

The annual Mt. Carmel Church Feast Celebration, the oldest Italian feast in honor of the Blessed Mother in the state of Rhode Island, will be held July 16-19, on the Bristol Town Common. The Chief Marshals Reception will be held Sunday, July 12, following the 10:30 a.m. Mass at the church.

"Not being Italian, I was surprised," said Mr. Ruginis, a full-blooded Lithuanian. "This is such a tremendous honor. We've lived in Bristol since 1984 and it's been wonderful."

Ms. Ruginis said being surprised by the announcement was an



Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church Feast Chief Marshals Bob and Kathy Ruginis (center) are flanked by Alex Cournoyer (far left), Thomas Vendituoli Award winner, and the Rev. Henry P. Zinno Jr., pastor of OLMC.

cial of academics at Bishop Stang High School in North Dartmouth, works in prison ministry at the Dartmouth House of Detention, and serves as the OLMC school board chairperson. Bob Ruginis is a self-employed electrical engineer who does volunteer robotics engineer work for Bishop Stang.

Alex Cournoyer, this year's Faith in Action winner, is a graduate of Bishop Stang High School and is the son of Al and Mary Cournoyer of Portsmouth. He teaches fourth grade religious education in the parish and has attended the Youth Mission Trip to Nicaragua the past three years.

He has been an altar server since second grade, MC since seventh grade, and sacristan since his sophomore year in high school.

In the fall, Alex will begin studies at the University of Mary, a Catholic university in Bismarck, N.D.

"Alex has put faith into action his entire 19 years of life," Father Zinno said. "Alex is one of those rare young men who combine youthful exuberance, outstanding maturity, an incredibly fun personality, and deeply devotional and strong witness of faith."

In addition, Father Zinno noted, this couple is "known for their wonderful waffles and desserts" that they prepare at various church functions and during the OLMC Feast.

"Bob and Kathy Ruginis are two of the most generous people I know," Father Zinno said. "They have given of their time and talent in every aspect of parish life. I can count on them for anything and everything."

Kathy Ruginis is assistant prin-

understatement. "I was absolutely surprised and excited," she said, of one of the highest honors in the parish. "It's overwhelming."

Father Zinno also announced that Alex Cournoyer, who has been actively involved in the parish, ministry and volunteer work for many years, is this year's recipient of the Thomas Vendituoli "Faith in Action" Award. As Father Zinno emphasized, being named Chief Marshal of the

feast is the highest designation that a parishioner of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel can receive.

"Our Chief Marshals this year are most wonderful parishioners who are well known by all, especially to the youth of our parish," Father Zinno said. "They have worked at the feast and at feast events for so many years. Both are Eucharistic ministers. Both have been, and continue to be, adult chaperones on our youth mission to Nicaragua from its inception."