

Sister Kathleen Kircher, the diocesan ecumenical director, and the Rev. Lawrence E. Witmer, newly installed director of GEM.



William J. Benet, director of Education Resource Network (ERN), a community project of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries. ERN's purpose is to develop, within a neutral setting, community support for the public schools of Rochester enabling all children to have the highest quality equal educational opportunities.

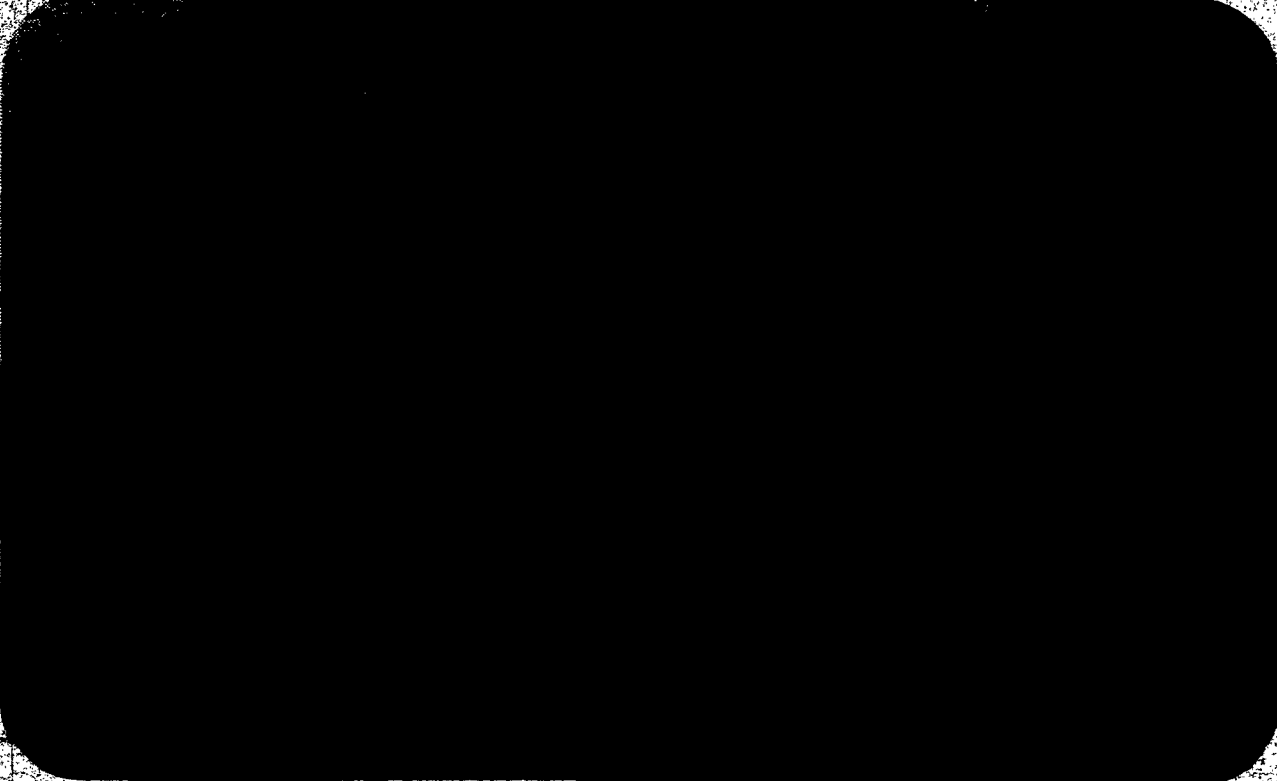
GEM'S Man with a Mission

Text by Father Henry Atwell
Photos by Susan McKinney

"Ecumenical Bishop," "Jack of all Creeds," "Ghost of a Hope," — the new executive director of Genesee Ecumenical Ministries could be inappropriately described in these various ways.

Rev. Lawrence Witmer, second clergyman to be selected permanent director of the Rochester area Catholic-Protestant coordinating agency, was installed in a colorful rite at St. Thomas More Church, Brighton, this past Sunday evening.

Some people think of him as a supradenominational bishop — which he isn't, or as an errand boy for divided Christians who really don't want to get together anyway — and that isn't true either, or as a wistful symbol of what won't ever happen — and that would be to deny the prayer and promise of Jesus Christ.



Rev. Virginia Mackey welcomes the candidates for Monroe County Sheriff, Richard Fairchild, left, and William M. Lombard, right, to the Forum on Justice Noon Series sponsored by the Judicial Process Commission and held at the Criminal Justice Center.