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# COURIER-JOURNAL

## Southern Tier-Auburn Geneva

Auburn-Geneva:  
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### Father Murphy Combines Roman Collar, Chef's Hat

By MARTIN TOOMBS  
Southern Tier Editor

Elmira—Using a portable dishwasher as a counter to hold a cutting board, one of Elmira's outstanding chefs comments on the usefulness of a French knife, wondering why more people don't learn to use one properly.

The demonstration that follows looks out of place in his tiny kitchen, with barely enough room to turn around, and a two-burner stove in the same unit as the sink. The kitchen was not designed with the talents of Father Richard Murphy in mind.

Father Murphy, chaplain at Corning Community College and Notre Dame High School, where he lives, is a noted gourmet chef, who has had recipes published, and has won awards for his cooking.

The architects of Notre Dame High School didn't anticipate a chaplain who designs recipes and enters, and wins, recipe contests. The inadequate facilities mean that "you have to plan," Father Murphy commented.

For eight years the Elmira Star-Gazette conducted recipe contests. In voting by the paper's subscribers, Father Murphy won an award each

year, the only person to do so, and won the grand prize twice. The trophies decorate a door in his quarters at Notre Dame.

Father Murphy said that he "always enjoyed" cooking, noting that when he was growing up, he had a deal with his sister, who didn't like to cook: "I would do the cooking and she would do the dishes."

Originally from Long Island, Father Murphy graduated from the University of Rochester before entering the seminary. In 1965, at his first assignment after ordination, at St. Patrick's, Elmira, Father John Hayes encouraged him to continue with his cooking. Father Murphy recounted.

While he is self-taught, respect for his skills is such that he will be teaching a three-credit course in gourmet cooking on Saturday mor-



Father Richard Murphy at work in his kitchen.

nings this fall at Corning Community College.

"I rarely cook for myself," he said, but often cooks for couples he is going to marry, college students, and others.

One regret, he said, is that "I don't do as much cooking as I would like to."

In addition to small groups, he has cooked for gatherings as large as 100, he noted, and

fairly often does dinners for 50 people.

As for cooking for other cooks, Father Murphy noted that when his mother visits him, he cooks, but "at home she always cooks. She's excellent." He pointed out that she is a parishioner and substitute rectory cook at St. Dominic's, Shortsville.

When it comes to looking for ideas and quality cooking, Father Murphy travels to New York City to visit restaurants. French cooking is his favorite, followed by Italian and Chinese.

He doesn't have any favorite dishes, he noted, but is "always experimenting, always trying new recipes, always trying to invent recipes."

He often adapts or invents new recipes, he noted, commenting that it "became a matter of pride to me to come up with something original" for the Star-Gazette contests.

Currently he is working on "a veal cutlet recipe that's my own invention," he said, using ground pecans instead of

bread crumbs for the covering. He'll have to make the recipe several times more, he said, to refine it. Then it will be his contribution to a cookbook being published by L'Alliance Francaise.

He has had recipes published before, he said, and someday would like to publish his own book, but doesn't think he'll be able to find time to do it.

Of course, he added, he might find more time for his cooking if it wasn't for his other hobbies, needlepoint and growing orchids.

The needlepoint led to being involved recently in the founding of an embroidery guild, he noted, and to teaching classes at a yarn store in Corning. He has become interested in ecclesiastical embroidery, he said, showing his supply of gold, silver, and other decorative threads. He has been working on a style that is based on 54 stitches to the inch, he explained.

The orchids are grown in the greenhouse at Corning Community College, he said, and in addition to their being used in botany classes, he has them to give as gifts.



Father John Nacca, pastor of St. Francis Assisi, and altar boys Kevin Blowers (left) and Christopher Blowers (right) gather food items donated to the Emergency Food Pantry.

### Auburn Parish Helps AIM Food Pantry

Auburn—Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi here responded generously to a plea for emergency foodstuffs made by Auburn Interfaith Ministries' (AIM) Emergency Food Pantry this month.

A Pantry spokesperson said that there had been a "drastic drain" on the food supply which is used to help area residents who are temporarily unable to buy food. The Pantry had been on the verge of turning away individuals and families in need when the donations from St. Francis

came. "We are especially appreciative of the efforts of Father John Nacca, pastor at St. Francis, and the St. Francis parishioners as the community food pantry housed at St. Peter's Parish Center had exhausted its shelves. The parish responded immediately and generously to this emergency situation," the spokesperson said.

Father Nacca indicated the parish will make this an annual appeal.

### Birthright Stresses Alternatives To Abortion

Auburn—Since its inception Birthright, an agency dedicated to working with pregnant girls and women, has greatly increased the effectiveness of the Auburn area Right to Life movement.

The Cayuga County Right to Life group can now concentrate on political action and education programs while Birthright can provide badly needed service to the community.

Birthright spokesperson Alice Butarazzi explained that the organization tries to "make sure a woman or young girl will take time to think her situation over rather than running off to have an abortion."

"We want to be sure she is aware of the alternatives as there is such public play given to the abortion route," she said.

Butarazzi added that all calls Birthright receives are held in strictest confidence.

Patricia Vanderloo, a Birthright staffer, stated that the agency is non-denominational and was formed in direct reaction to legalized abortion. There are chapters throughout the country. Birthright locally also provides for pregnancy testing which can be arranged through the Birthright office, 39 Williams St. Auburn, but no abortion referrals are made. Birthright plans to help young girls and women locate maternity homes, find financial assistance, where to

find help in caring for the baby, adoption services and counseling.

"Birthright does not solely act as a referral agency, but tries to be a friend. Some problems can be taken care of by a friend, someone to act as a sounding board to sort out problems," Butarazzi said.

The services of Birthright are available to women of all ages and are not restricted to unwed mothers. Mrs. Vanderloo said the public can help in three ways; word of mouth information to those who may need it, volunteers, funds for minimal operational expenses and direct service needs. Those interested in helping or those who may need help are urged by Birthright to call 253-3013.

### Freshmen Welcomed At Nursing School

Hornell—Thirty-five freshmen members of the class of January 1981 started classes Monday, Aug. 21, at St. James Mercy Hospital School of Nursing, to become candidates for registered nursing licenses.

On Aug. 16, 31 women and four men reported to the school for registration and orientation. Upper class students, 26 juniors and 22 seniors, resumed studies the same day.

On Wednesday, freshmen were welcomed by Loretta Haefele, director of the

Detective Cioffa was cited for his active civic involvement, especially on behalf of youth. He is active in the Cayuga Police Benevolent Association, the March of Dimes and in numerous fund raising activities.

He also works with the area Little League, CYO League, the St. Alphonsus Athletic Association and Neighborhood House.

Cioffa and his wife Ellen have three children and attend St. Alphonsus parish in Auburn.

### 'Man of Year'

Auburn—James F. Cioffa, an 18-year veteran of the Auburn Police Department, has been selected "Man of the Year" by the Christopher Columbus Commemorative Committee.



JAMES CIOFFA

A. W. BELBY & SON

Funeral Home  
James Rotsell  
Darrell O'Brian  
139 Walnut St.  
Dial 936-9121  
Corning, N.Y.

Gerould's Pharmacies

S. Main St. and Church & Hoffman  
Elmira

Delivery Service  
733-6696

school, and William Connors, assistant hospital administrator. Miss Haefele introduced faculty members and school staff and reviewed the nursing program. Mary Jane Sass, coordinator of student affairs, outlined student activities. A picnic lunch preceded the afternoon program, which was a slide presentation on the school by Dr. Janis Conklin, director of educational services, and a fire drill demonstration by David McEvoy, fire marshal. The students then received tours of hospital facilities.