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## Housewife's Prayer for Hostages Gains Nationwide Attention

By Beth Spring Religion Today

Washington — It isn't every day that a housewife's prayer appears in the Congressional Record.

But a prayer for the hostages in Iran, penned by Ruth Carlon of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., is gaining widespread attention due to the efforts of Rep. Hamilton Fish Jr. (R-NY) and a Poughkeepsie disc jockey.

The outpouring of sentiment produced by the prayer, which is read each day at 9:50 a.m. on Station WKIP in Poughkeepsie, is a testimony to the mounting frustration and concern over the fate of 50 Americans held captive in Tehran since Nov. 4.

The response has been "nothing short of stupendous," said disc jockey Van Ritschie of WKIP, who has been airing the three-stanza poem daily since early January. Three other stations in New York State, including one in Albany, have started

### American Unity Prayer for the Hostages

We beseech you heavenly Father  
Please, Lord, hear our plea  
Help free the hostages who are held  
In Tehran at the Embassy.

Soften the heart of their captors  
With your spirit of mercy and peace  
Grant them to see that vengeance is yours.  
Please, Lord, help this hatred cease.

Lead all of us in a spirit of love  
To penetrate hatred's wall  
In mankind of every race and creed  
Please Lord give your mercy to us all.

Amen

playing the prayer at the same time as well.

Entitled "American Unity Prayer for the Hostages," the simple nondenominational work was composed on Dec. 16, when President Carter declared National Unity Day. It was read at a Christmas candlelight service in Poughkeepsie, where Ritschie and Congressman Fish first heard it.

Fish included the text of the prayer in the March 3

Congressional Record, saying, "It has become clear to me how deeply people believe in the power of daily prayer as a force to free our hostages in Iran . . . I urge my colleagues to refer this prayer to radio stations in their own areas and to ask that it be broadcast."

Carlon, a mother of four who has had a book of poetry published, said, "We want the average citizen to pray with us every day, to let the world know that the American people care enough about the

hostages that we all get down on our knees."

Her own concern for the 50 Americans extends beyond prayer. Carlon said she writes letters to the embassy in Iran every two or three days. "My efforts will not cease until they're released," she vowed.

She recently traveled to Florida, distributing the prayer along the way to hotels and restaurants and receiving a response equal to the support of her fellow New Yorkers. "I believe it has helped a lot of people individually to deal with their frustration and feelings of helplessness," she said.

Carlon herself is no stranger to oppression. She came to the United States 28 years ago from Germany, where her family was "one of those who opposed the Nazis."

"I love America," she said. "Americans are like a big family and we all hurt for the hostages." Carlon attends a Methodist church in Poughkeepsie and is active with its Social Concerns Committee.

## Pastoral Changes Revealed

Two Rochester priests will be leaving the diocese temporarily to work outside of the country, and four others have new appointments that take effect June 20, the Pastoral Office announced Friday.

Father Joseph P. Brennan, former rector of St. Bernard's Seminary, will become dean of St. Edmund's House at Cambridge University in England. Father Peter A. Deckman, a veteran of the former diocesan mission in La Paz, Bolivia, will enter the Maryknoll Fathers' Priest Associate Program, in the expectation of a South American assignment.

Father Eugene P. Sweeney, co-pastor with Father Deckman of St. Michael's in Newark for the past five years, will become pastor of St. Pius V, Cohocton, and Sacred Heart of Jesus, Perkinsville.

The Newark parish has

been elected to return to the traditional single pastorate, the Pastoral Office reported, and Father Edward E. Steinkirchner of Holy Ghost has been appointed to the position.

Father Bernard F. Dollen of St. Andrew's, Rochester, will become pastor of St. John of Rochester in Fairport, and Father George Wiant, now associate pastor of St. Mary's, Dansville, will be pastor of St. Joseph's, Weedsport.

Father Steinkirchner, a priest for 31 years, has been pastor of the Coldwater parish since 1968 and director of priest interns since 1972. Father Dollen, ordained in 1957, was appointed eight years ago to the pastorate of St. Andrew's, his home parish.

Fathers Sweeney, Wiant and Deckman all were ordained in the early 1960s. Father Sweeney has served

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## Gary Schummer To Be Ordained

The Rev. Mr. Gary Schummer will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, May 3 at 11 a.m. by Bishop Matthew H. Clark. The ceremony will be celebrated at the Church of St. Francis de Sales, Geneva, in Spanish and English.

The ordinand will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving on Sunday, May 4 at 11:30 a.m. at St. Augustine's Church.

"Serve the Lord with Gladness" is the theme of his ordination.



SR. SHIRLEY PILOT

Deacon Schummer received his B.S. in chemistry and biology from the State University College at Brockport in 1974. He attended Becket Hall for a year before entering St. Bernard's Seminary. He received his master of arts in pastoral counseling with his master of divinity in May 1979.

Deacon Schummer did clinical pastoral education work at Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans for one summer. For the past two summers, he attended Spanish language schools in New York

## Sister Shirley Pilot to Direct Campus Ministry

Sister Shirley Pilot, SSJ, will become diocesan director of Campus Ministry July 1, the first woman named to the post in the Rochester diocese. She was elected last week by the other diocesan campus ministers to succeed Father William Lum.

Father Lum, Catholic chaplain at the University of Rochester for the past five years, will remain in that post,



FATHER SCHUMMER

City and Miami in preparation for work in parishes with Hispanics.

Since September Deacon Schummer has been

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as he has during his two years in the directorship.

Sister Shirley is a member of the ministry team at Rochester Institute of Technology, and will continue with her work there while coordinating ministry at all the secular campuses in the diocese.

Father Gerald Appelby, director of the Division of

## Father Devereaux Dies at Age 83

Father William J. Devereaux, pastor emeritus of St. Columba's in Caledonia and St. Patrick's, Mumfords, died April 25, 1980, at the age of 83.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark celebrated the Mass of Christian burial Monday morning at St. Columba's. The evening before, the bishop also celebrated the Mass of Christ the High Priest.

Father Devereaux had the care of the Caledonia and Mumfords parishes from 1944 until his retirement in 1970.

He continued to live at St. Columba's until about two years ago, when he moved to The Heritage at St. Ann's Home. It was reported at St. Ann's that he had come through two strokes and maintained his independence up until last week, when he underwent surgery. "He was always going downtown, taking care of his own affairs," a spokeswoman said. "He walked tall and straight."

Before his appointment to Caledonia, Father Devereaux was pastor of Holy Angels, Nunda, and Holy Name, Groveland, 1940-44.



FATHER DEVEREAUX

He was born in Rochester Sept. 15, 1896, and entered St. Andrew's Seminary from Blessed Sacrament School. Graduated from St. Bernard's, he was ordained June 7, 1924, by Bishop Daniel J. Curley of Syracuse, in old St. Patrick's Cathedral. He served as assistant pastor of St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls; St. Mary's, Elmira; Sacred Heart, Rochester; St. Mary's, Canandaigua, and Holy Apostles, Rochester.

His relatives are two sisters, Margaret and Marie Devereaux of Rochester.