

# L'Arche Program Continues With Full Time Chaplain

By Michael Groden

A Jesuit from McQuaid has taken time out from his teaching duties to begin an entirely different kind of ministry. Father William Frankhauser, together with volunteers Winn Fletcher and Jim Keenan, live and work with formerly institutionalized people, helping them to live on their own.

The program is based on L'Arche, an international federation of communities "where mentally handicapped and 'normal' people live and work together," according to a L'Arche booklet.

The Southview Towers community differs slightly from traditional L'Arche homes in that any handicapped person (not just mentally handicapped) may join.

Father Frankhauser has worked with the community on a limited basis for several years. This year, however, he asked his community for time off at McQuaid High School in order to work daily with the L'Arche residents.

The Jesuits responded by funding this year's program and provided Jim Kennan, a Jesuit seminarian studying in Cambridge, Mass., to help for the summer.

Southview Towers, located at 500 South Ave. is a UDC owned building which provides low income



Bishop Matthew H. Clark is flanked by Fathers Frank Frankhauser, left, and Kellner at a recent Mass dedicating the new chapel at Southview Tower.

housing. The residents are primarily handicapped or elderly people. There are some 70 people now in the L'Arche program, with 35 members belonging to a prayer group which meets each evening. Father Frankhauser added that you do not have to be Catholic to join the L'Arche residents.

Two apartments and the chapel room were provided, rent free by Elliott Landmann the operator of the building, so that the advocacy team can be close to the L'Arche residents.

The purpose of the program, Father Frankhauser explained, is to develop a sense of community with all those living at Southview. He said the elderly residents living at the apartment building were reluctant at first to have the L'Arche community living

there. Gradually the residents accepted the new tenants and show great support for them, Father Frankhauser said.

Although most of the residents live on Social Security Insurance they are encouraged to get out and work wherever they can. Many do volunteer work around the city. They learn how to travel, by bus, to their destinations from the advocacy team. Everything is done with a purpose, and everything is shared, Father Frankhauser said. The residents often prepare meals together, do their shopping or enjoy an occasional night out as a community. "Everybody tries to contribute to the group," he said.

The Catholic residents in the L'Arche groups are members of nearby St. Boniface parish and Father

Winfried Kellner, pastor, visits the community regularly. The advocacy team has also arranged for clergy from other faiths to visit Southview.

There is a daily Mass and a regular prayer group meeting at Southview, all well attended by residents of the building. Recently Bishop Matthew Clark visited the community to dedicate the new Chapel room, which was donated by Landmann.

Father Frankhauser said that there are a number of people who would like to join the L'Arche group but the advocacy has "to budget our time as best we can" so as to give the attention to residents deserve and need.

Another major advantage of having an advocacy team, Father Frankhauser said, is to provide professional assistance that the residents probably would never get for themselves. "These people need advocates," he said. Most of the residents are not very assertive people so they need someone to make sure they receive the help they are entitled to. The team helps residents with Social Security problems, physical and psychiatric care and anything else they may need.

Father Frankhauser made a point of thanking local groups for their help, including St. Ann's parish, the Jesuits at McQuaid and St. Boniface parish.

# Personnel Board Elections Posted

Results of elections to the Priesis Personnel Board were announced last week by Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey.

Re-elected to three year terms as pastors' representatives were Fathers John Hedges and Bernard Dollen.

Elected to two year terms

as associates' representatives were Fathers Kevin Murphy and Thomas Wheeland. They replace Fathers William Leone and John O'Connor, both of whom have received pastoral appointments.

Rounding out the board are Fathers John Rossi and Richard Brickler, representing special workers.

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# Marriage Workshops Previewed

The originators of what Frank and Sue Staropoli call "excellent" marriage enrichment programs will be in Rochester for a Family Marriage Enrichment Night at the Pastoral Center August 14.

The Staropoli direct the Office of Family Life for the diocese. The marriage enrichment program devisers are Ken and Gerrie Goewey, directors of Family Life for the Diocese of Albany.

The Goeweys will present workshops on their "Marriage Alive," and their "Love and Marriage: the Early Years" programs from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Each of the programs is designed to be conducted by one or two couples and a priest or sister. "Marriage Alive" is a one-day program for marriages at any stage. "Love and Marriage" is designed for married couples in the first three years of wedlock.

"Both programs have been used with enormous success in many of Albany's parishes and regions," the Staropoli said.

The family life office has outlines of the programs for persons wishing to preview them prior to the workshops.

Persons wishing to attend the workshops are asked to register with the Office of Family Life as soon as possible, (716)436-5450.

# 'Verein' To Meet In City

Rochester will be the site for the 85th annual conference of the New York State Branch of the Catholic Central Union (Zentral Verein) and the National Catholic Women's Union this September.

According to Leo P. Saeum, spokesman for the organization, the conference will be held at the Hotel 111, Sept. 12 through 14.

Father Bernard J. Power, CSB, is local director. Presidents of the Rochester groups are William Roeger and Lucille Schwind; and Joseph H. Gervais and Eleanor Schwind are co-chairmen of the September gathering.

Delegates will attend from New York City, Brooklyn, Saratoga Springs, Troy, Amsterdam, Syracuse and Schenectady.

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Saturday, August 16 from 12:00 Noon Until?  
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3 P.M. & 6 P.M.  
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3 P.M. & 6 P.M.

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