

Centering on Service



Office of Vocations

The diocesan Office of Vocations provides vocation information, motivation and counseling, and also coordinates vocation education and awareness programs for the diocese. Father Tom Valenti, director, emphasizes that these programs are designed to help people throughout the diocese recognize that God calls all members of the Christian community to a life of service. Encouraging each person to listen and respond to God's loving call, the programs help each to recognize that we are called, either to the single life, to marriage, to the religious life, or to the ordained priesthood. During 1980, office personnel conducted presentations for parishes, including college campus parishes, at high schools and for high school religious education and youth groups including the first diocesan Youth Day.

The diocesan Vocation Team, composed of the director and three religious (two sisters and a brother) plan and provide resources and services to help foster Church vocations. The team provides information on priesthood and religious communities of women and men as well as advice, counseling, and guidance to anyone considering

becoming a diocesan priest or making a vowed commitment to a religious congregation of priests, sisters or brothers. For example, discernment weekends and days of recollection are offered throughout the year by the congregations in the diocese. Also, the "Project Leadership Weekend" for junior and senior boys is scheduled for Feb. 6-8 at Becket Hall.

Information about all such programs is available from the Vocations Office.

The Vocations Office is also planning for the future. A research study is under way to plan for education and awareness programs in Hispanic and black communities for the vocation to Christian service, as well as to the priesthood and religious congregations. This is being done with the cooperation of the Office of Black Ministries and the Spanish Apostolate. The Vocations Office is also working with the diocesan Office of Family Life and the Northeast Region's Vocation Committee is planning a program of family enrichment and vocation education to be presented on Sunday, March 1, at St. Joseph's Church, Penfield.

United Ministries Pledged Support

Leaders of eight area denominational bodies, including Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, sent a letter to Rev. Raymond Graves, president of the United Church Ministry, expressing concern over the current racial climate in Rochester. The letter cited events stemming from the Dec. 30 murder of Windell Barnes, a black victim of an unprovoked assault on a downtown Rochester street. The United Church Ministry, a coalition of black churches, is a member of the Genesee Ecumenical Ministries along with the denominations represented in the letter.

In addition to Bishop Hickey, signers were the Rev. John Beeg, dean, Genesee Valley District, Lutheran Church of America; the Rev. Margrethe Brown, executive presbyter, Presbytery of Genesee Valley; the Rev. Jack Cassidy, area conference minister, United Church of Christ; the Rev. Robert Jones, district superintendent, United Methodist Church; Bishop Robert Spears Jr., Episcopal Diocese; the Rev. Carroll Turner, active executive minister, American Baptist Churches of Monroe Association, and the Rev. Lawrence Witmer, executive director, Genesee Ecumenical Ministries.

Deaths

A. McDonald

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan was the principal concelebrant for the Mass of Christian Burial of Alice M. McDonald at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Saturday, Jan. 24.

The widow of Ronald McDonald died Jan. 20, 1981 at the age of 93.

Mrs. McDonald was a member of the cathedral parish for more than 50 years, during which time she helped in the organization of the Men's Club and the Rosary Guild.

She was active in the Catholic Women's Guild and twice served as its president. She was also a prominent figure in activities of the Community Chest, the Red Cross and the Council of Social Agencies.

In 1952 she was chosen by the Catholic War Veterans as Catholic Laywoman of the Year.

Her other involvements included St. Mary's Hospital 15th Seton Group, which she founded; the Nazareth College Guild, the National Council of Catholic Women, Camp Stella Maris, the Catholic Youth Organization, Holy Angel's Guild and St. Elizabeth's Guild.

She is survived by her son, Hugh M. McDonald; her daughter-in-law, Arline; five granddaughters, four grandsons, two great grandsons and three great granddaughters; and her sister, Mrs. William J. (Adeleide) Hill.

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St. Thomas the Apostle

Father David Mura, spiritual director of Teen Seminar, will celebrate a special Youth Mass at 2 p.m., on Sunday, Feb. 1 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church. Students from St. Thomas are preparing banners for the Mass and will assist Father Mura during the liturgy.

A pizza party will follow Mass. All "friends and neighbors of St. Thomas the Apostle are invited to attend." St. Thomas is located at 4536 St. Paul Blvd. in Irondequoit.

St. Felix, Clifton Springs

The Catholic Youth Organization of St. Felix Parish, Clifton Springs, is sponsoring an Italian Dinner from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31, in the church hall. Tickets are \$3 for adults, \$2.50 for senior citizens, \$2 for children under 12, and \$12 for a family of two adults and four or more children. They may be purchased after each Mass or by calling 462-3167.

Our Lady of Mercy

The monthly meeting of the Rosary Society of Our Lady of Mercy Parish will be held on Monday, Feb. 2, beginning with the Liturgy of the Hours at 7:30 p.m., followed by a short business meeting in the Father John Whalen Room. Guest speaker Father Charles Latus will talk about his recent visit to Rome. All women of the parish are invited to attend.

Assumption, Fairport

On Sunday, Jan. 10, Father John Norris, pastor, Assumption Parish in Fairport, greeted children as they arrived for opening day of the new preschool Sunday School program.

The classes are held in the basement of the Church during the 9:30 a.m. Mass each Sunday. The preschool

Our Lady of Victory

The women of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Family at St. Joseph/Our Lady of Victory Church will next meet at 9 a.m. on Sunday, Feb. 1 with Mass. Breakfast will follow at the Downtown Holiday Inn on St. Paul Street.

program, for children aged 3 to 5, will coincide with the Parish School of Religion calendar. Registration for the free program is required and may be made by contacting GeeGee Micoli at 223-1714.

Good Shepherd

The Good Shepherd Rosary Society will hold an Afternoon of Recollection from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 8 in the church. Sister Beth McQuinn will speak on Faith and Prayer. Members and guests are asked to bring their Bibles.

The regular monthly meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10 in the gym.

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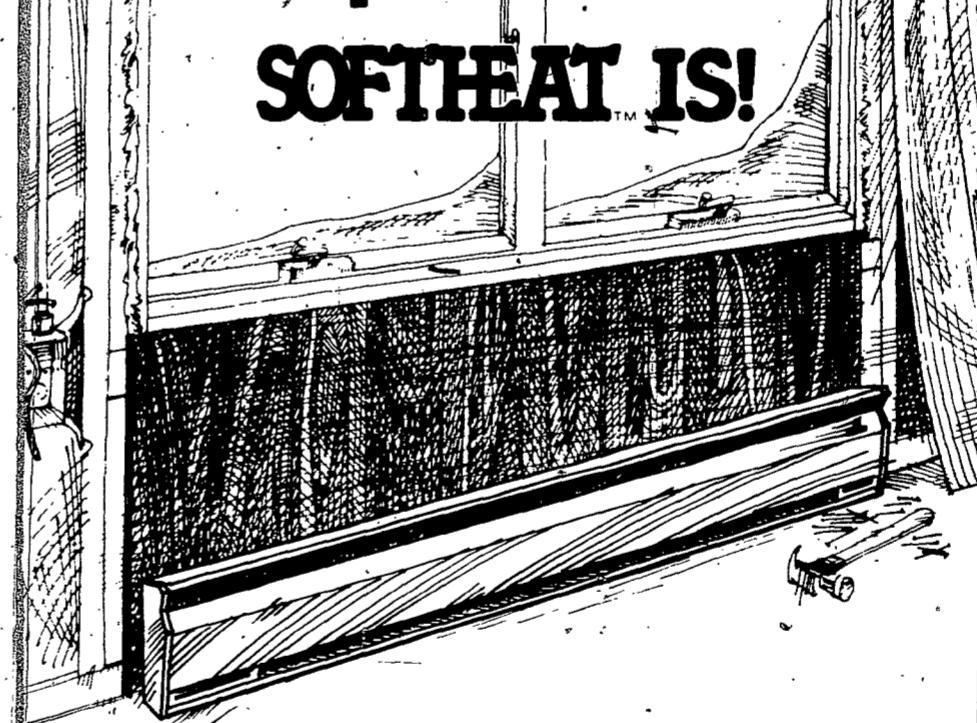
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