

COURIER-JOURNAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER
Our 98th Year

5 Pages

Wednesday, September 30, 1981

25 Cents



Happy Birthday

Sunday is the 800th birthday of St. Francis of Assisi, social and religious reformer, poet and singer, lover of all God's creation. Francis is shown here feeding the birds in a detail from a mural. Print courtesy of Mrs. Julia Blodgett.

Father Kleehammer Dies

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan was principal concelebrant at the Mass of Christian Burial for Father Francis A. Kleehammer Monday at St. Rita's Church in West Webster.

On Sunday night, Father James Wolfe was principal concelebrant at the Mass of Christ the High Priest.

Father Kleehammer, founder of St. Rita's parish, died Thursday, Sept. 24, 1981, at the age of 74.

Father Kleehammer, a gentle and self-effacing person, was assigned to organize St. Rita's parish in June of 1950. He conducted a parish census and organized a campaign to raise \$15,000 to erect a church building.

Father Kleehammer credits much of the success in getting the building up to Msgr. Arthur Florack, pastor of St. Michael's Church where Father Kleehammer was stationed when given the Webster assignment.

According to Father Kleehammer, Msgr. Florack was attending a funeral one day at St. Margaret Mary's Church when he noticed a



FATHER KLEEHAMMER

frame structure out the window that the congregation had used before building the present church. He decided that that would be the structure for St. Rita's.

It was dismantled and moved to the 23-acre site in West Webster and re-assembled. Father Kleehammer credited the success of the operation to architect Philip Winkler.

The first parish Mass was celebrated Sept. 3, 1950, and the church itself dedicated on Sept. 24.

Under Father Kleehammer's guidance, the school was opened in 1955. At about that time, Father Kleehammer began the now famous St. Rita's Fiesta.

In 1959, the parish started a school-convent drive which collected \$68,000, more than expected, and the additions to the school were opened in 1960.

Born in Rochester Dec. 8, 1908, Father Kleehammer attended Holy Redeemer School, St. Andrew's Seminary and St. Bernard's Seminary. He was ordained June 10, 1933, in the former St. Patrick's Cathedral.

His first assignment was as assistant at St. Andrew's. In 1937, he was transferred to St. Peter and Paul, Rochester, and in 1943 to St. Michael's.

Father Kleehammer retired in June 1978.

He is survived by his sister, Lillian Kleehammer, and his brother, Lester.

Contributions may be made to the Father Francis Kleehammer Memorial Scholarship Fund of St. Rita's School or to St. Rita's Church Building Fund, 1008 Maple Drive, West Webster, N.Y. 14580.

Food and Hunger Issues Expected to Draw 5,000

A massive demonstration of concern over the issues of food and hunger has been developed by Genesee Ecumenical Ministries (GEM), among others, to take place the week of Oct. 12-18.

Included on the week's agenda is an extensive exhibit on food, nutrition and hunger, and a host of related concerns at Midtown Plaza, Oct. 12-16; a rally featuring entertainer Mitzi Collins, the Black Seeds and the Open Hand Puppet Theater of Syracuse on Oct. 16 at the Hochstein Music School Auditorium; a county-wide collection of food items on Oct. 17 to restock

emergency food cupboards throughout the area; and a legislative hearing Oct. 15 on agricultural policy issues facing the state in the Henrietta Town Hall.

Billed as "Share the Harvest Week," the program is believed to be the largest such effort assembled in the state.

During that time an expected 5,000 persons will take part in CROP walks in the county. To date 13 simultaneous 10-mile walks will take place in Rochester alone. The objective of the walks is to raise \$100,000, \$25,000 of which will remain

in the area and \$75,000 will be used for food overseas.

In addition, the week will encompass World Food Day, a new observance designated by the United Nations to encourage global efforts to end hunger.

GEM is being joined by Church Women United, Action for a Better Community, Rochester Association for the United Nations, Rochester Peace and Justice Education Center and the diocesan International Justice and Peace Commission, among others.



Father Richard Hart, pastor of Guardian Angels Church, Henrietta, is putting the staff of Good Shepherd Church through their paces in preparation for the marathon. Fathers Hart (left), George Vogt, pastor emeritus, in pace car (tractor), and Roy Kiggins and Ed Palumbos, co-pastors, are ready to start.

Parishes Stepping Out In Race Aiding Schools

Students, faculties and families of Good Shepherd and Guardian Angels schools will participate in the Marathon for Catholic Schools from 9 to 11 a.m., on Saturday, Oct. 3. The six-mile course, from Highland Park Bowl to Genesee Park and return, can be run, jogged, biked or walked.

A two-mile mini-marathon for the younger children (kindergarten through 4th grade) will be held from 9 to 11 a.m., the same day, at the Guardian Angels school grounds.

Children of both schools are seeking pledge support and are competing for prizes

which include a one-year family tuition, TV video game, and bike radios.

Molly and Dave Nikodem are coordinating efforts at Guardian Angels while Pat and Ray Schmitt, along with Jeff Gaylord, are directing efforts at Good Shepherd.

Youth Ministry Report..... 10, 11
Wayland Parish 100 3
Special on the Rosary 16