

Bishop Rosso To Visit Here

Bishop Sebastiano Rosso of Piazza Armerina, Italy, will visit the Italian community of Rochester the week of May 10-17.

The bishop, a native of Chiaramonte Gulfi, Ragusa, earned his degree in theology from the University of Louvain, and his doctorate in letters from the University of Catania, Sicily.

After serving the Diocese of Siracusa, Sicily, as rector of the major seminary, he worked on planning and development for a site of pilgrimage. He was named bishop in the early 1970s.

Bishop Rosso will speak at 8 p.m., Friday, May 14, at the Casa Italiana on the Nazareth College Campus. His topic will be the theological significance of Madonna Delle Lacrime, an allegedly miraculous event which

occurred in Siracusa in 1953. The event is free and open to the public.

The bishop will be the guest of honor at a dinner and dance, 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 15, at the Americana Hotel. Tickets at \$17.50 each are reserved by calling Fulvio Gibbardo, 266-1620; Jerry Abruzzese, 247-6816; Ricardo Radicia, 342-2240; or Ferdinando La Delfa, 482-9204.

Bishop Rosso will preside and preach the homily at a concelebrated Mass at 3 p.m., Sunday, May 16, at St. Francis Xavier Church on Bay Street.

In addition, the bishop is slated to lead a pilgrimage to a shrine of Our Lady of Fatima. The day-long bus trip costs \$10 per person. Reservations are made by calling Father Michael Costanzo, (716) 586-3231.

Sisters Sharon Bailey, SSJ and Patricia Frisk, SSJ



Viewpoint: Sisters Reflect

Neighborhood Ministry Challenging

The corner of Webster and Parsells avenues has revealed much to us about the meaning of ministry. A drive past this central city Rochester neighborhood in 1980 offered the view of an abandoned corner storefront, depressing in its disintegration and emptiness, its sidewalks dotted with junk-food debris and empty beer cans. Due to the efforts of Corpus Christi Parish, this once-decaying building now has become a new sign of hope and life in the neighborhood, asserting its place proudly along with the bar across the street and the fish market next door. In a parish reach-out effort, the building was acquired for back taxes, and a major renovation project initiated, relying primarily on volunteer help and donations.

The task was challenging, and at times overwhelming; so, too, was the faith response and generosity of parishioners, neighbors and supporters. Today, with the transformation nearly completed, this renewed structure is the site for several new ministries. One, a parish-sponsored Neighborhood Health and Outreach Center, ministers preventively to the health needs of area residents. The other, a Family Resource Center, separately incorporated, provides a variety of preventive services such as parenting education, home visiting, counseling and respite child-care to area families.

Both projects share a faith conviction that Jesus' mission to proclaim life is at the heart of their call; both are rooted in the importance of neighborhood, and a commitment to enabling people to develop their own resources for themselves and others. Being a part of such an undertaking has been an unpredictable interplay of risks, rewards and surprises for all involved. As Sisters

newly sharing this neighborhood ministry after 17 years in traditional fields of nursing and teaching, each day we learn anew that God indeed writes straight with crooked lines. Coping with the lack of security, direction and defined structure characteristic of something new is more than balanced by the enrichment of grace-filled people and experiences that have become a part of our lives. At times we can only laugh at the humble reality of our work, which can combine counseling a mother fighting the syndrome of child abuse, discussing nutrition and life goals with a pregnant teenager, installing a door jam and new baseboards, and sampling sweet potato pie donated by a neighbor—all in the same morning.

We continue to discover much about faith and ministry in our little corner. Much from the neighborhood people themselves — black, white, Hispanic and Asian — who are often so generous and spontaneous in their caring for each other and for us despite unbelievable economic and family pressures in their day-to-day lives. Much, too, from the dedicated people with whom we work; two of whom gave up successful careers and financial security to cast their bread on the waters of this venture. Their daily witness to the strength of Christian commitment, their courage, vision and humor make it a privilege to be with them.

In all of this, the mutuality of ministry has been reinforced for us over and over again — ministry seen not as "service for" but a "being with," as together we struggle to know and respond to God's presence in our lives and in our neighborhood.

Sister Sharon Bailey, SSJ, is co-director of the Corpus Christi Neighborhood Health and Outreach Center.

Sister Patricia Frisk, SSJ, is program director for the Webster Avenue Family Resource Center.

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