

Amnesty International Promoter Addresses Urgent Action Groups

Vincent McGee, the former University of Rochester student who became a "prisoner of conscience" in Amnesty International definition, returned to Rochester last week to encourage area residents to participate in AI programs.

McGee gained attention in the early 1970s when he refused to participate in Selective Service procedures. He was subsequently jailed and at that point was designated a "prisoner of conscience" by AI, the Lon-

don-based human rights monitoring group.

AI, he said in an interview, has "a specific mandate within the political realm in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

The international organization works in three areas: for the release of political prisoners and prisoners of conscience; for "a clear and open charge and a fair and open trial for any person accused of a political offense;" and, finally, for an end to cruel and unusual punishment, McGee said.

Amnesty International's work to end the death penalty is based on the last principle, McGee said.

"The international question of the moment is the reimplementation of the death penalty," he commented.

Individuals caught between conflicting political and human rights claims occupy most of Amnesty International's attention, and one of the most effective tools in resolving that problem has been the organization's Urgent Action Network.

In the diocese, Urgent Action commands a strong following among priests, women Religious and individual Church groups.

Through it, "we try to mount a campaign of 'moral suasion'," McGee said.

Notices of the maltreatment of political prisoners are sent to various groups which in turn write letters of protest to those responsible in foreign countries.

With the exception of the question of the death penalty in the U.S., Amnesty International prohibits U.S. members to work on or to research controversial cases in the U.S., McGee said. "On controversial cases here," he said, "Amnesty will send a trial observer, and it will be a foreign national," usually a Canadian or a Mexican.

In his own case, he said, "all the work was done in Holland."

The idea behind that, McGee said, is to "stay freed from politics on your own part to make the organization effective — in staying out of local issues."

He said it is Amnesty International's broad appeal to persons of many political stripes that makes it an effective champion of human rights.



Vincent McGee of Amnesty International.

Both AI and the Urgent Action Network were chiefly organized in the diocese through the efforts of Sylvia Thompson, formerly of the diocesan Department of Justice and Peace.

Patricia Boyce, chairperson of the Human Rights Task Force of the diocesan International Justice and Peace Commission, accompanied McGee on his rounds last week.

Persons and groups interested in AI's Urgent Action Network have been asked to contact her for further information: Department of Justice and Peace, 750 W. Main St., Rochester, N.Y. 14611. Further information is also available from Mary Patricia Olley of that department, (716) 328-6400.

Diocesan Calendar of Events

Continuing Education for Religion Teachers (CERT)

Region/Dates	Topic	Place	Time
LIVINGSTON Jan. 31, Feb. 7, 21, 28, March 6 Feb. 16	11 A Scripture, 1-5	St. Mary's, Dansville	3:15-5:15 p.m.
March 10	11 D Christian Moral Life and Social Justice, 1	St. Mary's, Geneseo	7:30-7:30 p.m.
March 15, 29	Christian Moral Life and Social Justice, 2-3	St. Mary's, Geneseo	9:15-1:00 p.m.
Christian Moral Life and Social Justice, 4, 5			
SOUTHERN TIER Feb. 4	1 A Basic Methods, 1-3	St. Mary's, Corning	9:30-3:30 p.m.
	1 A Basic Methods, 1-3	St. Patrick's, Owego	10:00-3:00 p.m.
	11 D Christian Moral Life and Social Justice, 1-3		
Feb. 11	1 A Basic Methods, 4-5	St. Patrick's, Owego	10:00-1:00 p.m.
	11 D Christian Moral Life and Social Justice, 4-5		
Feb. 18	11 A Scripture, 1-3	St. Joseph's, Campbell	10:00-3:00 p.m.
Feb. 25	1 A Basic Methods, 4-5	St. Mary's, Corning	9:30-1:30 p.m.
	11 A Scripture, 4-5	St. Joseph's, Campbell	10:00-1:00 p.m.
Mar. 1, 8, 14, 22, 29	1 B Basic Doctrine, 1-5	St. Patrick's, Elmira	7:30-9:30 p.m.
Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	11 E Advanced Methods, 1-5	St. Patrick's, Elmira	7:30-9:30 p.m.
TOMPKINS-TIOGA Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2 Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2	1 B Basic Doctrine, 1-5	Immaculate Conception, Ithaca	9:30-9:30 p.m.
	11 A Scripture, 1-5	Immaculate Conception, Ithaca	9:30-5:00 p.m.
YATES/ONTARIO/WAYNE Mar. 20, 21, 22, 27, 29 Mar. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	11 A Scripture, 1-5	Sacred Heart, Auburn	7:00-9:00 p.m.
	11 D Christian Moral Life and Social Justice		
MONROE Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26, Feb. 2 Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26, Feb. 2	11 B Church, 1-5	St. Cecelia, Rochester	7:30-9:30 p.m.
	11 B Church, 1-5	St. John of Rochester, Fairport	9:30-11:30 a.m.
Feb. 9, 16, Mar. 1, 8, 15 Feb. 9, 16, Mar. 1, 8, 15 March 2	11 C Sacraments, 1-5	St. Paul's, Webster	9:30-11:30 a.m.
	11 C Sacraments, 1-5	Guardian Angels, Rochester	7:30-9:30 p.m.
	11 D Christian Moral Life and Social Justice, 1	St. Christopher, N. Chili	7:30-9:30 p.m.
March 3	Christian Moral Life and Social Justice, 2-3	St. Christopher, N. Chili	9:00-1:00 p.m.
March 10	Christian Moral Life and Social Justice, 4-5	St. Christopher, N. Chili	9:00-1:00 p.m.
Mar. 5, 12, 19, 26, April 2 Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3	11 B Church, 1-5	St. Saome, Rochester	3:00-5:00 p.m.
	11 D Christian Moral Life and Social Justice, 1-5	St. Monica, Rochester	3:00-5:00 p.m.
Mar. 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4	11 A Scripture, 1-5	Our Lady of Mercy, Roch.	3:00-5:30 p.m.
			Repeated in the evenings 7:30-9:30 p.m.
Mar. 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11	11 C Sacraments, 1-5	St. Helen, Rochester	3:15-5:15 p.m.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Date	Time	Event	Place	Contact
Jan. 30 -- Febr. 3	All week	CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK	Diocese	General Ed.
March 4	1:00-7:00 p.m.	"MARCH FOURTH TO MINISTRIES"	Bishop Kearney High School	Vocations Of Youth Ministry
March 31	9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.	Bishop Clark Challenges Youth Parish Family Program Models: Transforming Good Ideas Into Living Experiences	St. Mary's School, Canandigua	Religious Ed

YOUTH RETREATS

Programs of spiritual renewal for 9th-12th grade students and for Young Adults are regularly scheduled by:

Youth Retreats
c/o Rev. David Mura
1150 Buffalo Road
Rochester, N.Y. 14624
716/328-3210

JEREMIAH -- 9th graders
GENESIS -- 10th graders
TEEN SEMINAR -- 11 graders
EMMAUS -- 12th graders
ANTIOCH -- Young Adults (18-25)

Probe Nun's Death, Cardinal

Los Angeles (NC) -- Cardinal Timothy Manning of Los Angeles called Dec. 26 for an investigation by the Peruvian and U.S. governments into the death of Columban Sister Joan Mary Sawyer, killed Dec. 14 while a hostage in a jail break attempt in Lima, Peru.

In Peru, however, following an investigation by a judge, the government announced that charges of negligent homicide had been filed on Dec. 26 against two top prison officials and seven police officers in the death of Sister Sawyer.

Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry said after the nun's death that the shots fired at the escape vehicle were unauthorized and that those responsible for the shooting would be disciplined. Judge Benjamin Madueno, who investigated the case, said prison officials and police were responsible for the shooting of Sister Sawyer. Charges were filed against Peru's national prison director, the inspector general of prisons and seven police officers. A trial was not expected for several months.

Cardinal Manning said that Sister Sawyer "died the death of a martyr."

DFC Plans 'Messiah' For April 1

"The Messiah" (Passion and Resurrection sections) will be the annual production of the Diocesan Festival Choir this year. The presentation, marking the 10th anniversary of the choir's activities, will be performed at 4 p.m., Sunday, April 1, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse chapel, 4095 East Ave.

Rehearsals have been scheduled from 3 to 5 p.m., Sundays, at the SSJ motherhouse, beginning Jan. 8.

"We welcome any interested singers to join the choir for the anniversary season," said Virginia Hogan, SSJ, choir director. Registration and requests for further information may be telephoned Jan. 6 and 7 to 223-9006, or may be mailed to 20 Little Briggins Circle, Fairport, N.Y. 14450.

Scholarship

Elmira -- Carrie Effrig, a nursing student at St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing, was one of three chosen to receive a Shering-Griffin Scholarship, from the Genesee Region Citizens League for Nursing, headquartered in Rochester. Ms. Effrig was chosen from among 45 applicants from 10 area schools of nursing.

Deadline

Deadline for news in the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday, preceding Wednesday publication. The Courier-Journal address is 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

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Saturday, January 7, 1984
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**for applications and information
call 473-1130
1800 South Clinton Avenue**