

Diocesan Parish Network For Homeless, Transients Reaches Half-Way Point

The diocesan Parish Network for Homeless Persons has reached the half-way point of its opera-

tion, having begun hospital-ty services for the homeless in November and continuing through April.

The Interfaith Network of Emergency Shelters which operates out of Blessed Sacrament, St. Augustine and St. Bridget parishes is open each night 10 p.m.-8 a.m. providing food and shelter for many of the homeless persons of the Rochester community.

Corpus Christi has also opened its own shelter with six emergency beds, bringing the total parish capacity for housing up to 41. All shelters have been operating at their capacities, and frequently above them.

Thanks to the efforts and support of the Interfaith Shelter Committee, with its representatives from the Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation, Catholic Charities, the Episcopal Diocese, St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, the Monroe County Department of Social Services, and the participating parishes, the program is operating very well, Eileen Earley, network director said last week.

The shelter committee played a large role in bringing the project into being. The volunteers actually make it work. Many have prepared food, donated money and needed supplies, and have given up sleep to act as hosts and hostesses at the parish shelters, she said.

The many hours they have devoted to caring for the homeless has been a tremendous witness of love in our community, she commented.

A number of volunteers devote extra time to coordinating shelter activities at the parish level. John Byrne, one such volunteer from Blessed Sacrament Parish is pleased with that shelter operation, and feels that good things are happening there.

"We are losing guests for good reasons," Byrne said, referring to one person who had been laid off from his job that was assisted in finding employment in the same field by shelter volunteers. He knows of others who have been helped in obtaining public assistance and have since found permanent housing. "Unfortunately," said Byrne, "there are always more people to fill the bed of those who leave."

A number of factors contribute to the problem of homelessness, Ms. Earley noted. Among them: the lack of low income housing; high unemployment levels; and the mental, emotional and physical impairments of individuals.

Additional volunteers are always needed and welcome. Persons interested in serving the homeless in Parish Shelters are asked to call the following: Ann Byrne, Blessed Sacrament Parish coordinator, 244-1017; Mabel Butler, St. Bridget Parish coordinator, 323-6079; Margaret Hentschel, St. Augustine Parish coordinator 328-1505.

Persons wishing to help finance the shelter program are asked to send donations to: Catholic Charities Homeless Fund, 50 Chestnut Plaza, Rochester, N.Y. 14604.

Further information is available by calling Ms. Earley at the diocesan Department of Justice and Peace, 328-6400.

Insights In Liturgy



Language Of RCIA And Lent

By Maribeth Mancini And Pam Schaeffer

During Lent, those people in a parish who are part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process enter a time of intense spiritual preparation for the reception of the sacraments of initiation (Baptism and/or Confirmation and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil. This period of purification and enlightenment or illumination has a vocabulary all of its own. An explanation of terms is a good starting point for a better understanding of the language we will be hearing and using regarding the RCIA.

The season of Lent-Easter time also brings its own terminology. Most of us are familiar with these terms, yet it never hurts to refresh ourselves with their meaning and to re-evaluate how their messages affect our lived experience today, compared to the understanding we held several, or even a few, years ago. The remainder of this column and that of next week will be devoted to an exploration of the RCIA and Lent-Easter time vocabularies.

Catechumenate — The unbaptized who have declared their intention to study and pray in preparation for election. They were enrolled at the beginning of the period of the catechumenate.

Candidates for Full Communion — People validly baptized in another Christian religion, now seeking full communion in the Roman Catholic Church through catechesis leading to their Confirmation and reception of the Eucharist.

Rite of Election — The rite celebrated by the bishop and the catechumens at the beginning of Lent. It celebrates the conversion of the catechumens and marks their election as those to be fully initiated at Easter. It is the calling of the catechumens by the Church in the name of God to preparation for those sacraments of initiation. The rite includes a presentation of the candidates to the bishop and the community, examination of the candidates, testimony of Godparents and catechists, election, and a prayer for the elect. Election is the turning point of the RCIA process. Those unbaptized who have celebrated the Rite of Election and called to the faith.

Celebration of At-

diocese, the participation of the local (parish) community, affirming the faith-journey of catechumens and candidates for full communion. It is usually celebrated on the Sunday before the Rite of Election.

Community — The context of the RCIA. The parish family who celebrates, journeys and prays with the candidates and catechumens.

Conversion — The ongoing turning toward Jesus and the attitudes, actions and values of his mission and message. Conversion may be felt more intensely by those preparing for initiation, however this is a process each of us encounters throughout our lives and we are especially mindful of our attitudes, actions and values as Lent calls us to re-evaluate each year.

Abstinence — Voluntarily refraining from certain foods, such as meat. This self-denial is seen as an act of penance. "The law of abstinence binds those who have completed their 14th year." Abstinence from meat is observed on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent in the Roman Catholic Church.

Almsgiving — the call to be compassionate toward others; to "suffer with" others, bearing not only their physical or emotional pain, but their joys and hopes as well. In giving "alms" we learn not only to open our wallets but to open our very selves by deepening our responsiveness to persons.

Chrism Mass — The Mass the bishop celebrates with his priests and (in this diocese) people at which the oils of the Sick and Catechumens are blessed and the oil of Holy Chrism is consecrated. These oils will be distributed for use throughout the parishes of the diocese during the coming year. This celebration is a sign of unity and commitment to serve the people of God. The diocesan Chrism Mass will be 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, April 17, at Sacred Heart Cathedral this year.

Fasting — Eating sparingly or abstaining from certain kinds of foods. It is generally understood that days of fast call us to eat smaller meals than normal and to refrain from eating between meals. Some may choose to eat only one light meal during a day of fast, or to subsist chiefly on water. "The law of fasting binds those who have attained their majority, until the beginning of their 60th year." Days of fasting observed by the Roman Catholic Church are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

AT YOUR PARISH

St. Helen

The Altar Rosary Society has scheduled a card party for 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the parish center. Refreshments will be served and admission is \$2 a ticket. All are welcome.

St. Mary

Elmira — A Golden Age pass-the-dish luncheon will be served noon, Feb. 14 at the Marion Center on Franklin Street. The luncheon is a project of St. Mary's Human Development Elderly Subcommittee. Diners are asked to bring their own table service. Beverages and rolls will be furnished. Entertainment will be provided.

Good Shepherd

A Charismatic Mass, presided over by Father Timothy Keating, CSSR, will be celebrated Sunday, Feb. 12 at Church of the Good Shepherd. Refreshments will be served after Mass.

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Mary Boike will speak on Communication Skills for Married Couples, 7:30-9 p.m., Monday, March 5 in the parish chapel. The talk is presented by the Marriage Preparation Team and the Religious Education Board. The public is invited and \$1 admission will be asked at the door. A question and answer period will follow the talk.

St. Stanislaus

The annual Valentine Card Party sponsored by the Holy Name of Mary Society of St. Stanislaus Church will begin 2 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 12 in the auditorium. Tickets at \$1.50 per person will be available at the door. Chairperson of the event is Mrs. Marie Budnik.

St. Agnes

Avon — The Rosary Society of St. Agnes Church will hold a tureen supper, 6:30 p.m., Feb. 14 in the village hall. Participants are asked to bring table settings. A feature of the evening will be a slide presentation on "The History of Avon" by Bob Hoffman.

Holy Spirit

Penfield — The Padre Pio Holy Hour will begin 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12 at Holy Spirit Church. Father Frederick W. Bush, pastor, leads the rites every second Sunday of the month.

St. Charles

A computer fair will be sponsored by the St. Charles Borromeo Home School Association, noon-4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 12 in the Parish Center. Admission is \$5.00 per person with accompanied children under six admitted free. Some equipment will be available for purchase.

St. Margaret Mary

Natural Family Planning of Rochester, inc., will give an informational pre-

FD Officers

Father Roy Kiggins, pastor of Good Shepherd Church, gave the opening and closing prayers at ceremonies installing new officers for the West Henrietta Fire Department. Town Justice Joseph Marticelli administered the oaths and Battalion Chief Paxton Maffett of the Rochester Fire Department was the keynote speaker.



St. Thomas More

Michael Diodato, with trophy, took first place, Junior High Division, in the Monroe County Fire Prevention Essay Contest with the topic "Learn Not to Burn throughout the Year." Diodato is a pupil at St. Thomas More School.



Perpetual Help

Sister Clare Francis Mogenhan, principal at Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, congratulates seventh grader Jacqueline Porter, as eighth grader Adam Fischer is congratulated by Eastman Kodak's Junior Achievement representative, Betty Bender, at the end of a Junior Achievement program coordinated by teachers Mrs. Theresa LeFrois and John Driscoll. Highlights of the program were tours and a visit from "Hero the Robot."

sentation on fertility awareness and family planning, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 16, at St. Margaret Mary School, 400 Rogers Pkwy. The presentation is free and open to the public.

Precious Blood

A celebration of "true love" will be held at Most Precious Blood Parish, beginning with a Mass, 7 p.m., Feb. 13 followed by refreshments. According to Ed DeMario of the parish, the liturgy will be celebrate "sweetheart love," and couples attending will be asked to "share their wedding albums with each other." On Valentine's Day a roller skating party will be held 7-10 p.m. at Horizon Skateway. The day following

two eighth graders will be chosen King and Queen by their fellow pupils. In addition, this month and next will see a celebration of Maria DeMattias, foundress of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. Films on her life will be shown 7 p.m., Feb. 16 for adults of the parish.

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