

# Domenick L. Gabrielli To Open Mancini Series

Domenick L. Gabrielli, former associate judge of the state Court of Appeals, will deliver the first lecture in the Mancini Lecture Series, 8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 26. in A-14 of the Nazareth Arts Center.

Gabrielli will speak on "The Influence of the Italian Immigrants — As Some of the First Settlers — And the Contributions Made by Their Progeny." The lecture is free and open to the public. It is one of a series of programs sponsored by Nazareth Col-

lege Casa Italiana celebrating Rochester's sesquicentennial.

The Mancini Lecture Series is named in honor of Joseph A. Mancini, a Rochester industrialist, founder of Monroe Forgings of Rochester.

Mancini will be guest of honor at a dinner preceding the lecture, 7 p.m., in Medaille Hall.

Reservations for the dinner are required and are obtained by calling the Casa Italiana, 586-8744.

# Church Women List Speaker

Doris Younger, general director of Church Women United, will be the featured speaker when the organization marks World Community Day at a 6 p.m. dinner meeting, Friday, Nov. 2, at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 141 Adams St.

Her theme will be ministries to the homeless and the work of Church Women United nationally.

Tickets are \$5.50 and reservations must be made by Oct. 26 through the local office, telephone (716) 454-1813.

# Commission on Elderly Strives 'To Enhance Quality of Life'

By Sister Anne Maloy RSM

The prolongation of life coupled with a change in fertility rates has resulted in a radical change in the age structure of our whole population. There are many more older people today than in any other moment in history. This is both a gift and a challenge for society in general and for the Church in particular.

As of 1980, New Yorkers aged 65+ represented 12 percent of the state population, and of this age group those 75 and over accounted for 42 percent. The oldest of the old are increasing at the fastest rate and by the year 2000, they will represent 44 percent of the elderly population in New York State. Thus, these most vulnerable members of society will need more services and caregivers.

One in six New Yorkers is 60 years of age or older, the second-largest such population in the nation. The growth will continue. By the year 1990, nearly one in five New Yorkers or 19 percent of the state's population will be over 60.

The Church has always played an important role in the development of personal and societal values. Today it must continue in a special way to do so when society experiences new realities of decreased economic resources and an increase in the aged population. Because the vulnerable and frail are likely to be caught in the crossfire of public debate regarding the extent to which government can and should act on their behalf, the Church must not only advocate for them but empower them for self determination.

It seems that the Church is also challenged by reason of faith to fill the gaps where our society does not respond and to bring its theological resources to bear on the spiritual development of the elderly. Aging is not the process of dying. Personal growth, especially toward wholeness and holiness in the fullness of age is a need of our time perhaps more than any other age in history.

The Church's concern for the aging has been limited virtually to sacramental ministry to those who are frail. It is essential that the Church reflect more fully

in its words and actions, the involvement of the whole Christian community, the involvement as we attempt to deal with the impact of a rapidly aging population.

With all of this in mind, the New York State bishops have convened a Commission on the Elderly with representatives appointed from each diocese under the direction of Msgr. Charles Fahey of the Fordham, Third Age Center. The commission's purpose is to identify ways in which "to enhance the quality of life of older people in the Church and society." This quality of life includes growth in the spiritual life as well as economic, social and political life.

The major activities of the commission will be to present information about the demographic realities of our older population; to assist the Church at all levels in serving the needs of older members; to explore the spirituality of older persons and the development of ministry to and by them, especially the religious needs and gifts of the most frail and vulnerable; and finally, to develop a moral perspective on public policy issues, as well as people's perception of the elderly and the role of the institutional Church in responding to their needs. An additional responsibility of the commission is to address the concerns of retired priests and members of religious congregations of women and men as they face similar issues.

In the Diocese of Rochester, the Mercy Center With the Aging, located at 891 Jay St., is already beginning to respond to these concerns and is calling churches and Church leadership to assess their present ministry to the elderly and to plan for the future. Our dioceses and parishes are being called to collaborate with other churches in this endeavor.

It is the hope of the Commission on the Elderly to enable all of us to grow in wisdom, age and grace as we walk through this journey of life -- together.

Sister Anne Maloy RSM is director of the Mercy Center With the Aging, and diocesan representative to the State Commission on the Elderly.

# More Opinions

## Must Study Many Issues

EDITOR:

I write out of a deep concern for the upcoming election. The gravity of our choices next month calls for us as responsible citizens to focus on the full range of issues, rather than on the personality of the candidates. We have both a political responsibility to vote and a moral responsibility to choose a leader committed to creating a more just society.

Members of the hierarchy have recently participated in media-covered events that suggest a Catholic endorsement of the Republican party. Consider the papal nuncio being flown to Reagan's ranch, Cardinal Krol leading prayer during the Republican convention, a bishop in Buffalo standing with Reagan at the dedication of a home for the elderly -- a home built with funds Reagan proposed to cut in his first budget.

This administration's budget priorities are clear evidence of its fundamental opposition to those programs that constitute a consistent ethic of life, as defined by Cardinal Bernardin, who stated that "our moral, political and economic responsibilities do not stop at the moment of birth." In that same speech at Fordham University (December 1983), Cardinal Bernardin provided criteria by which to critique public policy positions that can also be applied to the political candidates:

Another four years, repeating the woes of Reagan's record, would be harmful to all of us, especially in these areas:

- the escalation of the arms race;
- the military intervention in the Caribbean and Central America;
- the support of military dictatorships that abuse, torture and murder their own citizens;
- the huge budget transfers from human needs to a bloated and inefficient Pentagon;
- the "inequality of sacrifice" inherent in policies that fall heaviest on the last protected -- persons of color, women and children;
- the appointment of new Supreme Court justices, given the objectionable commitment to civil rights issues shown in the administration's position on several landmark cases argued this last term.

Geraldine Ferraro is being judged negatively by members of the hierarchy, yet her voting patterns as recorded by NETWORK, a Catholic social justice lobby, show that Rep. Ferraro voted:

- for the food stamp program;

• for technical assistance programs such as the World Health Organization and the Food and Agricultural Organization;

• for emergency fuel assistance for families with low incomes;

• for payments to locales suffering from recession, to support teachers' salaries, schools, police and fire protection

• for the transfer of FY 1983 budget authority of \$400 million and outlays of \$4.85 billion from defense programs to Medicare

• for the nuclear freeze resolution that would stop the buildup of arms;

• for prohibiting U.S. troops in Central America without a joint resolution by Congress;

• for ending U.S. support for covert operations against Nicaragua, and

• for equal rights for women.

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suffering. But what a travesty of justice for the poor -- to be willing to enlarge the already full purses of unscrupulous medical people who exploit young, frightened, pregnant women by solving their problem with an abortion!

The Mondale-Ferraro effort has been to project an image of champion of the poor and of human rights in all nations. But that image is immeasurably tarnished by the stark reality of what is happening in our nation with the wholehearted sanction of these same candidates. Over a million times each year an innocent unborn's life is legally terminated and the only prerequisite? A woman's choice!

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## Age Irrelevant In Election

EDITOR:

The prevailing argument these days against President Reagan's bid for a second term stems from the fact that he is 73. First, I'm appalled this is being introduced into the current campaign by Walter Mondale and company. Second, there is not one piece of concrete evidence to suggest that the president's age has handicapped his overall effectiveness in holding the most powerful job in the world. To simply exclude any person from seeking and holding public office on the basis of age is a tragic waste of human wisdom.

President Reagan has consistently proven that he can deal with the daily rigors of the presidency. His can-do spirit, along with the ability to bounce back from adversity, is a comforting thought in this highly complex age in which we live.

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## Why Is Priest Collar-Less?

EDITOR:

In the Oct. 3 issue of the Courier-Journal I was surprised and shocked to see a picture of Father Curran dressed in a tie and jacket.

No wonder the Catholic of today is confused when the pope suggests clerical garb for priests and Father Curran has his picture taken in secular garb.

I would like to know what our Bishop Clark thinks about such a picture in his diocesan newspaper.

Also on the same page is Father Cuddy's "On the Right Side." Would Father Cuddy care to comment?

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# 102 Diocesan Teachers Receive Service Awards

Teachers of diocesan elementary schools in Monroe County met for an annual conference day on Friday, Sept. 28, at Bishop Kearney High School.

Teachers from other areas

of the diocese met in a similar meeting on Friday, Sept. 21, at St. Mary School, Waterloo.

At these meetings, a total of 102 diocesan teachers were

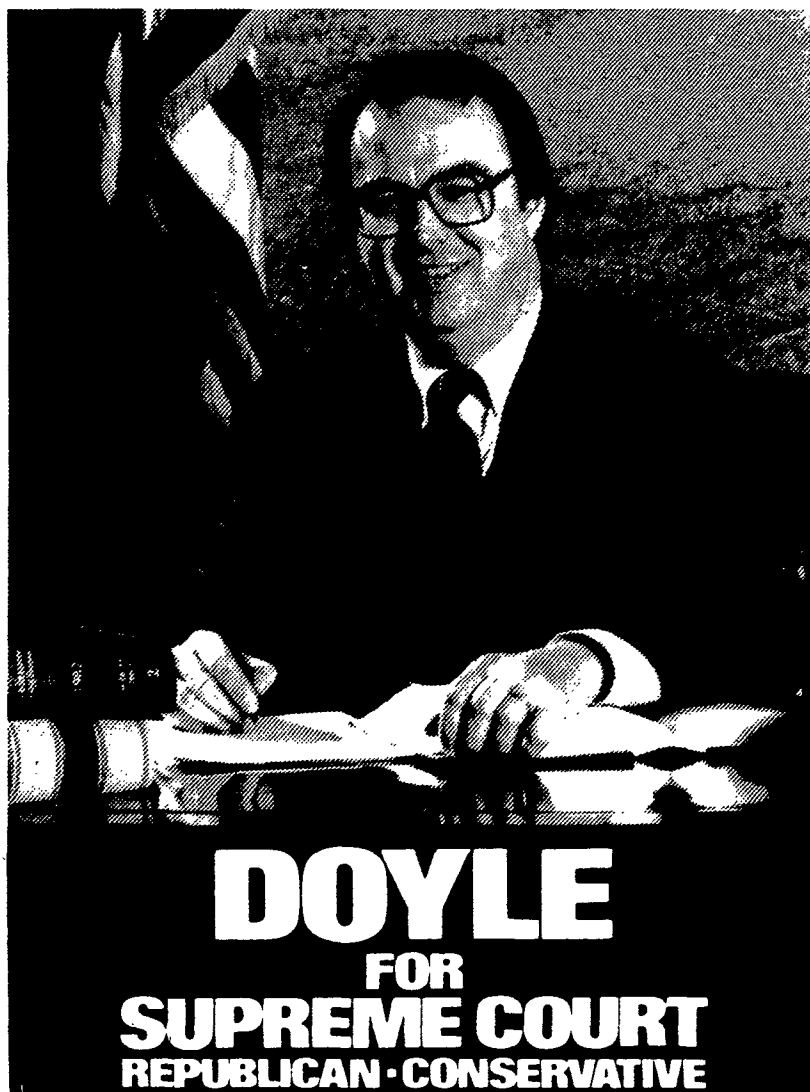
honored for outstanding service. Each recipient has served more than 25 years in diocesan schools.

Among those honored were 85 religious sisters and 17 lay teachers.

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Member of Blessed Sacrament Parish  
Member of St. Thomas More Catholic Lawyers Guild  
Presently Monroe County Attorney  
Graduate of Boston College