

Neighbors in the News

A book on heart surgery written by Nancy Yanes Hoffman of Brighton, an associate professor of English at St. John Fisher College, was published this month by Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich. The result of four years of interviews and writing, "Change of Heart: The Bypass Experience" contains the stories of 21 diverse individuals who underwent bypass surgery, the most commonly performed major operation in America.

Patti Kesselring of Fairport has been named manager of the Fairport office of Regency Properties/Better Homes & Gardens real estate service. A graduate of the University of Rochester, she is a former faculty member at St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing.

Four Nazareth Academy seniors have been commended for their performances in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Nancy Ciavarrì and Lisa Zabelny will receive a letter of commendation in honor of the outstanding academic promise they demonstrated by placing in the top five percent of the program nationally.

Lynette Nelson and Kristy Parks, who placed in the top seven percent of participating black students, were commended for their achievement by the National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students.

All four students will receive their letters at an honors assembly November 21.

Internationally acclaimed pianist David Buechner performed this month for 60 music students at Nazareth Academy in what is

known as an "informance" or informal, flexible performance that encourages dialogue between artist and audience. Buechner explained the history and technique behind the pieces he played and answered questions from the students.

Buechner's visit was part of the Affiliate Artists Xerox Pianists Program, an effort to advance artistic careers while informing and educating young people who might have a future in the performing arts.

St. Thomas More School has participated in the Who's Who Achievement and Service Award Program for junior high students for the past two years. To be eligible, students must earn at least a B-average and demonstrate leadership or involvement in school or community programs.

This year, winners are: Aimie Meisenzahl, Susan Dawc, Kevin Rhatigan, and Amy Liebert. Last year, Michael Diodato, Kathryn Glavin, Lisa Morency, Sandra Scardetta and Jennifer Turri were recognized. A master certificate listing all winners hangs in the school's first floor corridor.

Aquinas alumnus Vinnie Mancuso, also known as illusionist and escapologist Vindini, performed an 18-trick show on Saturday, Oct. 5, at the Auditorium Theater in Rochester. The 1980 Aquinas graduate performance was videotaped for showing in Las Vegas, where he hopes to begin performing again.

Two former standouts in college lacrosse, Marc Van Arsdale of Hobart and Art DeCarlo of Washington & Lee University and University of Maryland, have been named assistants to Nazareth College head coach Scott Nelson.

Van Arsdale is a Geneva native and 1985 Hobart graduate who twice won All-America honors as an attacker and was named most valuable player in 1983 and 1984 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division III championships.

DeCarlo, a practicing dentist in Rochester, was a midfielder during his college career and received honorable mention All-America honors during high school in Baltimore.

A former basketball and volleyball player at the college, Linda Verscheider-Pudetti was named an assistant in volleyball and Pavlos Nassos, a former semi-professional soccer player, was named assistant men's soccer coach.

The new Basilian regional representative for the Eastern United States and a member of the order's ruling body, the General Council, is Father Joseph A. Trovato, C.S.B., chaplain of St. John Fisher College. Father Trovato was elected by his fellow Basilians to a four-year term beginning immediately.

Although he will continue to live at Fisher and serve on the college's board of trustees, a new chaplain will be chosen. Besides attending council meetings in Toronto every six to eight weeks, Father Trovato is the spokesman for all Basilian houses east of the Mississippi River.



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Rural life leader says revised pastoral letter understates problems of rural communities

By Julie Sly

Kansas City, Mo. (NC) — The second draft of the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on the economy is more "clearly written and compelling" than the first but "does not go far enough by a long shot" in addressing the farm crisis, said Greg Cusack, executive director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

Cusack discussed the bishops' pastoral and

rural life issues at the conference "People of the Land: Pastoral Care for Rural America" Oct. 20-22 in Kansas City.

The annual conference was sponsored by the Edwin Vincent O'Hara Institute for Rural Ministry Education. The Washington-based organization was founded in 1977 to assist people in ministry to rural communities.

Cusack said he is concerned about what he called "a muted tone" from the bishops on the "structural weaknesses" of the economy.

"What has happened to our farmers is not simply something that has gone temporarily awry, that somehow is going to be corrected or get rid of itself," Cusack said.

Now is the time, he added, for "hard truths" and sometimes "hard words" about "the realities of power and our complicity in that system of power."

The draft's section on food and agriculture is presented in a broadened context, especially in reference to the use of resources, said Cusack. But, he said, "it must come to grips with dealing with the national ethics of our economy."

"Greed, manipulation, and utilization of people ... are deeply ingrained in the people of this country and will not be easily rooted out," he contended. "Ultimately, Catholics have done a good job of being Americans, but they have to remember that they are Christians first ... and this has got to somehow be confronted by the bishops in their pastoral."

The bishops' pastoral does condemn misuse of the world's resources by a minority of the world's population, explained Cusack.

It also contains a "reasonable argument," he said, for pursuit of the common good with special concern for those "marginalized" members of society. He said the marginalized today include farmers because they are "being shoved to the edge."

However, Cusack said, the bishops underplay how many farmers are losing their livelihoods and the "ripple effects" that has on banks and rural communities.

Cusack said a system of concentration of land ownership such as what exists in Central and South America could happen in the United States.

Franciscan Sister Jose Hobday, a Seneca Indian on the staff of the Tekakwitha Conference in Great Falls, Mont., in a keynote address said that in order for city residents to understand rural problems, they must be brought into the country.

She said many landowners lack an "integral attitude" toward land and that rural people need to share their experience of the land with landowners as well as with city people, many of whom "have never walked a dirt road" but are making the decisions affecting rural America.

Bishop Maurice Dingman of Des Moines, Iowa, received the institute's Edwin Vincent O'Hara Award for his leadership in rural ministry.

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