

Neighbors



Sister Muriel Curran (far left), diocesan vicar for religious, shakes the hand of Pope John Paul II, as Monsignor Gerard Krieg (third from left) looks on.

For the third consecutive year, Rochester's Polish Catholic community and the Bishop James E. Kearney Fourth Degree Assembly Knights of Columbus celebrated a special Polish-language liturgy on Palm Sunday.

Diocesan officials attend conference, meet Holy Father

Sister Muriel Curran, diocesan vicar for religious, and Monsignor Gerard Krieg, pastor of St. Stephen's Church, Geneva, attended the annual meeting of the National Conference of Vicars for Religious, which was held in Rome, March 10-13.

Vicars for religious are diocesan officials whose role is to offer guidance to religious congregations and to individual members of these congregations in light of the pastoral plan of their dioceses, while respecting each congregation's autonomy.

The NCVR meets each year in the United States and every fifth year in Rome. The theme of this year's conference was "Together In Service of the Gospel." Among a wide range of topics, the conference included a discussion with Cardinal Jerome Hammer, prefect of the Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes, and 15 other members of the congregation.

The NCVR meeting also included a private audience with Pope John Paul II.

With the cooperation of Fourth Degree assemblies from New York and several other states, nine ciboria and chalices were presented to Father Andrew Grzela, pastor of St. Stanislaus Church and native of Poland.

Father Grzela will eventually send the sacred vessels to Cardinal Jozef Glemp, Primate of Poland, for donation to priests and parishes throughout his country.

The Church in Poland is reported to be flourishing despite persecution. Vocations to the priesthood are at a high level. Unfortunately, material resources to meet the needs of newly founded parishes are restricted. For that reason, the "Chalices for Poland" project was initiated in 1984 by the Bishop Kearney Assembly.

Thirteen scouts from the Cassaga County Council of the Boy Scouts of America were presented with the Ad Altar Dei Medal at Sacred Heart Church, Auburn, by Father Robert J. Downs, pastor of St. Patrick's, Moravia.

Receiving medals were: Troop 21 - Vernon Altermann and Kevin Coleman; Troop 55 - Darrick Grobely, Rusty Mantey, Brian O'Connor, John O'Connor, and Ricky Hertel; Troop 107 - Henry Jongerling, Joe Ricci, Paul Ricci and Peter Ricci; Troop 3 - Matthew King and Michael Roberts.

Ad Altar Dei is a program designed to help scouts develop a fully Christian way of life, based on the sacraments. For 16 weeks, each scout studies the sacraments and keeps notes in a log. They then present the log for evaluation and defend their knowledge before a progress review committee.

Eleven men and women were honored by the Diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting at the committee's 39th Annual Bishops Report Dinner April 20 at the Common Center of Elmira College.

In recognition of their outstanding service to Catholic scouting in the diocese, nine scouts were presented the St. George Emblem, the highest diocesan recognition of lay people. Two priests were also recognized for their work with diocesan scouts by the Bronze Pelican Emblem.

Honored were: Finger Lakes Council - Gordon (Sandy) McLaren of Newark; Sullivan Trail Council - the Honorable John P. Callanan of Watkins Glen and Robert Alsen and Walter Jacobus of Horseheads; Steuben Area Council - Joseph A. Ippolito Jr. of Avon; Oretiana Council - Mary (Kitty) Metz, Ray Nary Jr., Theron (Ted) E. Bartlett, and Rosemary Varga, all of Rochester; Father Timothy E. Horan,

pastoral vicar of Holy Rosary Parish; Father Joseph B. Dorsey, CSB, professor and retired administrator at St. John Fisher College.

This year, the Catholic committee also instituted a new award, the certificate of merit presented to ten scouters. Nearly 200 scouters from the seven scout councils in the diocese attended the dinner, which was chaired by Margaret Falcone and Raphael Specchio Jr.

Scouting's highest honor, The Eagle Scout Award, was presented to Stephen A. Jaeger at a Court of Honor held at St. Mary's Auditorium. The son of Jean and Emery Jaeger of Christian Road, Dansville, he is a junior at Dansville Central School. Troop Committee Chairman and Eagle Scout James Sauerbier presented the Eagle Scout Award to Jaeger. Last April, Jaeger was selected by the Catholic Committee on Scouting to deliver a speech at the Annual Report to the Bishop Dinner.

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