

# Speaker encourages SSJ congregations to expand membership

By Beatrice Ganley, SSJ

"The times cry out for unity; breaking down of barriers; and collaborative, participative effort of the total Church to speak to our time," observed Sister Bette Moslander, featured speaker at a recent meeting of the governing board of the Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

According to Sister Moslander, former superior general of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia, Kansas, the charisma or graced inspiration that prompted the order's foundation "has never been more needed, nor has there ever been a more open moment for it to be received by women and men who are sincerely seeking peace and wholeness in a society torn by divisions, conflicting ideologies, war and selfish consumerism."

Sister Moslander's topic, "Expanding Forms of Membership and Bonding with Other Lay Women and Men," occupied a major portion of the federation's 1987 annual meeting, held August 18-21 at the Rochester congregation's East Avenue motherhouse. The meeting, which was co-hosted by the SSJs of Rochester and Buffalo, was attended by 80 congregational leaders representing St. Joseph communities from all sections of the United States and parts of Canada.

The federation is a voluntary union of all Sisters of St. Joseph congregations that trace their roots to a 17th century community founded in LePuy, France, by Jean Pierre Medaille. Established to assist the leaders of member congregations in responding to the experiences of their respective communities, the federation has no formal authority. Its efficacy depends upon the willingness of each member congregation to translate federation goals into action.

Referring to the concept of origin as an energizing force that can disrupt today's status quo,



Sister Bette Moslander, CSJ, addresses the Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph on the topic of expanded membership for lay people.

Sister Moslander urged her audience to reflect upon the original institute envisioned by Medaille. "In (this community's) mission, there was nothing esoteric, nothing exclusive, nothing reserved only to those members of the institute who would profess the traditional vows . . .

"Our own renewal processes," she remarked, "have brought us back in touch with the dangerous memories of our own foundation by Medaille and the first Sisters of St. Joseph. We are not and were never meant to be an exclusive religious organization, but were always meant to be associated with other Christian

persons in our service of the poor, and in our mutual search for holiness and wholeness."

Thus, various forms of expanded membership for non-vowed Christians — including the "Agrégee" and Medaille House initiatives of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester — have developed from an "awareness around the original impetus of (the congregations') foundation, which was a totally new experience of religious life when it occurred," said Sister Moslander, who currently serves as director of communications for the Concordia community.

"Agrégee," meaning "companion on the journey," is the name given to the associate program of the Rochester SSJs. Two Medaille Houses — community dwellings in which sisters and non-vowed Christian women share lives of prayer and commitment to ministry — further augment the Rochester sisters' associations outside the congregation. In addition, many Rochester SSJs collaborate in less formal situations with men and women who do not wish to become core members of the congregation but who do share the sister's life aspirations.

Although she strongly endorsed such movements, Sister Moslander also offered cautions. These new forms of affiliation could lead to "a second-class citizenship" of non-vowed people among the congregations' vowed members, or allow communities to be used as "havens of security or comfortably pious unions for the faint of heart and the fearful!"

Sister Moslander also expressed concern that congregations might be tempted to "use other lay persons to take care of us or latch upon this movement as a remedy for our own decreasing vowed membership." Thus, she said, congregations must not take these new associations lightly and must carefully monitor their development.

Throughout her presentation, however, enthusiasm took precedence over concerns. Sister Moslander views the trend toward expanded membership as being filled with potential. "We do not know the outcome of this moment," she said. "We are just on the threshold of something and cannot as yet know what it might mean."

Sister Elizabeth Ann LeValley, superior general of the Rochester community, shares Sister Moslander's confidence in these new forms of relationship between non-vowed men and women and the core members of religious congregations. "We look forward with great hope and joy to this revitalization stemming from the original inspiration of our founding," she said. "We inherit the spirit of the women who dared to undertake all things for the greater glory of God and who were not afraid to move into uncharted or even unapproved areas."

Other items on the agenda for the 1987 federation meeting were decisions on a mission to be established in the diocese of Mobile, Ala.; a lay volunteer-in-mission project; continuing archival and research work, which has been a significant component of the federation's 20-year history; and a shared novitiate and renewal program in which member congregations have been participating for several years.

## Energy group accepting applications for 'weatherizing' area homes

Action for a Better Community's Energy Conservation Program at 914 N. Goodman St., Rochester, is currently accepting applications from low-income tenants and homeowners in Monroe County who want to reduce their home heating bills and cut fuel costs. ABC offers instruction in techniques for adding attic/sidewall insulation, repairing or caulking broken windows, and installing storm doors and windows.

ABC will conduct a free energy audit and prepare a "weatherization" plan specifically designed to meet the needs of eligible applicants.

For information call (716) 654-7110.

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS

THOSE WHO WISH TO HAVE ARRANGEMENTS CARRIED OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE IDEALS OF THEIR FAITH, CONTACT THE FUNERAL DIRECTORS LISTED BELOW FOR PRE-NEED OR AT-NEED SERVICES AND COUNSELING.

ROCHESTER		
Set your mind at ease, make FUNERAL arrangements with specialists. at our home or in your home.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NULTON</li> <li>• ASHTON-SMITH</li> </ul>	<p>(716) 381-3900</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MATTLE</li> <li>• PAYNE NULTON</li> </ul>
ROCHESTER		
<p><b>Farrell-Ryan Funeral Home</b> Thomas W. Plumb &amp; James J. Ryan 51 W. Ridge Rd. Rochester, N.Y. 14615 (716) 254-3403</p>	<p><b>Schauman-Sulewski Funeral Home Inc.</b> Edwin Sulewski 2100 St. Paul Street Rochester, N.Y. 14621 (716) 342-3400</p>	<p><b>Younglove-Smith Funeral Home, Inc.</b> Serving Greece 1511 Dewey Avenue Rochester, N.Y. 14615 (716) 458-6200</p>
IRONDEQUOIT		
<p><b>Burns-Hanna Funeral Home</b> 1795 East Ridge Rd. Rochester, N.Y. 14622 (716) 467-5745</p>	<p><b>Dreier-Giltner Funeral Home Inc.</b> Edward H. Dreier - Alan E. Giltner 1717 Portland Avenue Rochester, N.Y. 14617 (716) 342-8500</p>	<p><b>Paul W. Harris Funeral Home Inc.</b> Richard P. Harris Charles E. Davis 570 Kings Highway S. (corner Titus) (716) 544-2041</p>
IRONDEQUOIT		
<p><b>May Funeral Home</b> George L. May Jr., Raymond L. Welch 2793 Culver Rd. Rochester, N.Y. 14622 (716) 467-7957</p>	<p><b>Schauman-Sulewski Funeral Home Inc.</b> Edwin Sulewski 2100 St. Paul Street Rochester, N.Y. 14621 (716) 342-3400</p>	<p><b>Michael R. Yackiw Funeral Home</b> 1270 Norton St. Rochester, N.Y. 14621 (716) 544-5000 If no answer 342-9300</p>
GATES		
<p><b>Alvah Halloran and Son, Inc. Funeral Home</b> H. Daniel Halloran 2125 Chili Avenue Rochester, N.Y. 14624 (716) 247-7590</p>	<p><b>Arndt Funeral Home</b> 1118 Long Pond Rd. (near Maiden Lane) Parking for over 100 cars Greece, N.Y. 14626 Ronald John Arndt (716) 225-6350</p>	<p><b>Vay, Schleich and Meeson Funeral Home Inc.</b> "Greece's Largest and Most Complete Facilities" 2692 Dewey Avenue Greece, N.Y. 14616 (716) 663-5827</p>
GREECE		
<h2 style="margin: 0;">HART MONUMENT CO.</h2> <p style="margin: 0;">Since 1856</p> <p style="margin: 0;">2301 Dewey Avenue Opposite Holy Sepulchre Cemetery</p> <h1 style="margin: 0;">865-6746</h1>		

**ALWAYS ON THE GO?**

**GUARANTEED DRY CLEANING & LAUNDRY SERVICE**

one day service at all 16 locations

one day service at all 16 locations

**cleaners**

**ONE DAY**

Dry Cleaning & Laundry Service

**AT NO EXTRA CHARGE**

— Same Day Service —  
In by 10 A.M. — Out by 5 P.M.

**Laundry & Dry Cleaning Service**

at no extra charge!

**ALL 16 LOCATIONS**

Main Plant  
190 Court St.  
546-7120