

Obits/et cetera

Emeritus pastor Father Dominic Grasso, at 81

Father Dominic Grasso, 81, pastor emeritus of St. Patrick's Church in Mt. Morris, died Sunday, Oct. 3, after a prolonged illness.

Father Grasso had attended Schenectady High School, St. Jerome's College in Kitchener, Ontario, and Niagara University prior to priestly ordination in Albany, N.Y., on May 21, 1932.

Because of the need for priests in Rochester, Father Grasso was appointed to St. Francis Xavier Church in September of 1932. He was later named to Assumption Church in Mt. Morris in 1934, and in 1961 became the pastor of St. Patrick's, Mt. Morris, when the two parishes were amalgamated. He was named pastor emeritus in 1972.

Father Grasso also served for many years as chaplain to the tubercular facility on Murray Hill. His caring ministry brought exceptional joy and comfort to the patients.

Because of the communicable nature of tuberculosis, many feared to approach or visit the facility, but Father Grasso reassured the patients of his lack of fear by sitting on the sides of their beds to talk with them, and other acts of kindness. He likewise maintained good rapport with the facility's staff and made out-of-town members feel at home in Mt. Morris.

Father Grasso is survived by his sisters Maria Scalia and Frances Vinceguerra; brother-in-law Dominic Ziano; and sister-in-law Rose Grasso. He was predeceased by sisters Victoria Ouirini, Mary Ziano and Antoinette Cicero.

Mass of the Christ the High Priest was celebrated at St. Patrick's, Mt. Morris, on Wednesday, Oct. 5, with Mass of Christian Burial following on Thursday, Oct. 6. Interment was scheduled for St. Patrick's Cemetery, Mt. Morris.

Mooney

Continued from Page 13

OVER IN SECTION 4 Class C, Elmira Notre Dame is 2-2 over its last four games after an 0-5 start.

The Crusaders had been riding a high from a modest two-game winning streak after shutouts against Elmira Free Academy (2-0) and Corning (7-0), until they lost hard-fought decisions to Hornell and Addison late last week.

Coach Steve Weber said the team's defensive play has shown the most improvement, as ND has cut its opponent's shots on goal in half.

"The first five games, we were averaging 25

shots against. Now we are allowing just 12 shots against and that has helped us get a couple of wins," said Weber, who guided the Crusaders to the Section 4 Class C final game in 1987.

Weber is still puzzled by his team's play at home, where the Crusaders are 1-3.

After two tough games at home against Horseheads and Southside this week, ND has games against beatable opponents in Bath, EFA and Corning.

ND lost to Bath and Hammondsport by identical scores of 2-0 earlier this season.

The leading scorer for the Crusaders thus far has been Katie Cain (5 goals, 1 assist). Melanie Crisco has scored three goals and two assists.

Habitat

Continued from Page 7

of the Fisher community, and that made me want to do even more."

Kirchner noted that meeting the families who will be moving into the houses also helped to make the job more meaningful both for her and for the students. For example, while work was underway, several neighborhood boys began throwing sticks, Kirchner noted. Riggs

walked over to them and spoke to them. "I don't know what she said," Kirchner remarked, "but you could tell she was claiming ownership."

Galeazza observed, however, that he and the other students who worked on the project can also claim a kind of ownership.

"I don't want to sound so idealistic," he said, "but you're building a house — a home for somebody. You can look back when you're 50, 60, and say, 'This is what I did: We can look back and say, 'I did something.'"

CUA president thanks diocese for support of annual appeal

In a letter to Bishop Matthew H. Clark, Catholic University of America (CUA) President Father William J. Byron, SJ, thanked members of the Rochester diocese for their contribution of \$27,130.30 to the university's annual Diocesan Collection.

"This collection would not succeed were it not for your support and the cooperation of the priests and people of the Diocese of Rochester," Father Byron said.

More than 100 years ago, Pope Leo XIII — in response to a petition from the bishops of the United States — granted a papal charter

to establish CUA. Two weeks later, a similar charter was given to the University by Congress to grant civil degrees.

Classes for handicapped set for St. Ambrose center

Religious education classes for mentally handicapped people — starting at age six and up — will take place on Saturday mornings from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., beginning October 15 at St. Ambrose Special Religious Education Center, 31 Empire Blvd., Rochester.

The celebration of First Penance will be held on December 3, and First Holy Communion on March 18, 1989.

Classes are open to mentally handicapped people from any parish. For information, call Barbara Dranglis at (716)385-3656 before October 7.



Linda Dow Hayes/Courier-Journal

Despite their problems this family from Somalia, Africa, still manages to share some fun moments in their cramped quarters at the La Casa refugee center.

Refugees

Continued from Page 1

weeks before his Canadian hearing date, his hopes for a better life there are dimming. In July, he fled Sri Lanka, which is located on an island off the southeast tip of India, leaving behind his wife, an 18-year-old son, and a 10-year-old daughter.

As with fellow Sri Lankans who speak the Tamil language, Bala explained, he and his family were suspected of being insurrectionists by the Singalese, a predominantly Buddhist faction which rules the Sri Lankan government. "We have been in agony," he said.

First, Bala was ordered to quit his job in a factory laboratory. Then his house was damaged during shelling by Indian soldiers — who, he explained, have been brought in to assist the Sri Lankan Singalese in quelling opposition.

Bala's family found shelter in a nearby temple. Then his son was shot in the leg by a roving band of Indian soldiers. Because none of the local hospitals were operating, Bala convinced a surgeon to come to the temple and remove the bullet from his son's leg.

Bala spent most of his savings to fly to New York City, hoping he could quickly make his way to Canada, find work, and send for his family. His dream began to die when he reached the Canadian border near Plattsburgh July 20 and learned that he would have to remain in the United States until his October 25 hearing date.

A fellow Sri Lankan, whom Bala met while wandering through New York City's Port Authority bus terminal, offered him temporary shelter, and managed to provide one meal a day with wages as a gas station attendant. Realizing that he could not support Bala until October, however, the friend began calling churches, seeking one that aided refugees. Eventually, his search led to La Casa.

Since Bala arrived in Lackawanna in September, he has written to his family, but has received no response. "Although I am safe, I am very much frustrated," he said. "Right now, I don't know if they are living or dead."

Fidel, on the other hand, is almost certain

that his 23-year-old wife is dead.

The young Salvadoran, who asked that his real name not be used, met his wife while both were studying at the University of San Salvador, and they married last April. In July, Fidel said, his wife disappeared. Because she was a coordinator in the university's student protest movement, Fidel is certain that she was abducted and killed by members of the Salvadoran military.

Fearing reprisals, Fidel's family begged him to leave El Salvador. "That's my own land," he said. "I would have stayed if not for my family."

Instead, Fidel obtained a visitor's visa for the United States, and arrived earlier this month in Buffalo via Guatemala and Los Angeles — where his brother lives. Because he has friends living in Toronto, Fidel immediately applied for entrance to Canada. His hearing date was set for January 24, nearly a month after the new immigration policy goes into effect.

For the moment, Fidel is "just trying to have patience." If admitted to Canada, he hopes to find a job, and to someday resume studying law. He doesn't expect to soon see the kind of changes in El Salvador that would allow him to return. "There is no democracy in my country ... only democracy for the military," he said. "My friends believe that Canada is a good democratic system."

Despite Canada's tradition of hospitality to refugees, Sister DiCesare worries about the direction that the country's new immigration policy will take. She hopes the results will not follow the pattern of last November's U.S. immigration reform bill, which she says belies the term "reform."

"It has become harder and harder for a bona fide refugee to stay in the United States," she said, observing that even an Afghan rebel whose father was imprisoned and whose brother was murdered by the Soviet-dominated Afghan government, was advised by his lawyer that his chances were better in Canada than the U.S.

"The employer sanctions (against hiring undocumented workers) make it very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain work in the U.S.," she added. "If you don't qualify for amnesty, what are your alternatives?"

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