

Obituary Etc.

Gerard A. Austin, former Realtor, was active in Irondequoit parish



Gerard A. Austin, a charter member of the Men's Club at St. Thomas the Apostle in Rochester, died Monday, Nov. 28, at Rochester General Hospital. He was 76.

Known to his friends as Jerry, Mr. Austin was born in Pittsford and eventually settled in Irondequoit with his wife, Rita. He was a former real estate agent and at one time was vice president and secretary of the Standard Rochester Brewing Co.

Mr. Austin was very active in various activities at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, where he was an usher and assisted with scouting programs. He also served as president of the Maywood Neighborhood Association in Irondequoit.

Operating his own firm, Austin Realtors, Mr. Austin was a former Realtor member of the Real Estate Board of Rochester. Previous to that, he had served as a broker with Gokey Realtors of Rochester.

In 1939, Mr. Austin became associated with the Rochester Brewing Co., where he rose to the post of assistant treasurer in 1949. Shortly after the merger of the Rochester Brewing and Standard Brewing companies, he was elected vice president and secretary of the newly formed Standard Rochester Brewing Company in 1958.

Mr. Austin pursued many interests throughout his lifetime, especially golf and gardening, as well as sharing music and entertainment with his family and friends.

Mr. Austin is survived by his wife, Rita Tierney Austin; two sons, Richard G. and James R.; two daughters, Mary and Theresa; a brother,

Leonard; four sisters, Geraldine Warren, Eva Madeline Starks, Therese Dieter and Jeanne Virgil; as well as many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations can be directed to Camp Good Days and Special Times, 100 White Spruce Blvd., Rochester, N.Y. 14623.

King's dream

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back burner of the nation's agenda, said Bishop Ricard.

Carroll called the pope's World Peace Day Message "right on target ... but it's hard for people to give up their old ways of doing things."

According to a survey her office took to locate black personnel in U.S. dioceses, she said, "there are no black superintendents of schools, no black finance directors and only one black youth department director."

Most black professionals employed by the church, she said, are in charge of "ethnic offices."

Since Dr. King's day, a flourishing drug trade has combined with poverty to wreak havoc on black neighborhoods, Carroll said.

Now black youths "who don't have goals or adequate role models and hang out on street corners" frequently turn to drugs, she said, noting that drugs have become "more plentiful than food" in some neighborhoods.

The federal government, she said, has not seen fit to spend what is necessary to help the users and close down the vendors.

Denise Rigano, 38, principal of Our Lady of Grace Elementary School in a neighborhood in

New York's Northeast Bronx — where crack houses operate and drug deals are made on street corners — believes both blacks and whites need to "learn tolerance" in order to unlearn prejudice.

To facilitate that learning process "you don't just have Martin Luther King Day or Black History Month," she said. Efforts have to be ongoing.

In her opinion, inroads made by the drug trade in poor black neighborhoods have made it more difficult than ever to break down racial stereotypes.

"It's hard to see Christ" in the drug dealer or user, she said. "But Christ is in that person as much as in the policeman that has to arrest him."

Cardinal

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Board and Implementation Committee.

The two were formed in 1987 to strengthen the church in the urban areas in light of falling parish enrollment, the declining number of priests and rising costs.

The panels' original recommendations included closing 45 Detroit parishes and one parish in nearby River Rouge, designating two parishes as shrines, and establishing five new parishes.

The recommendations also called for giving preference to parish leadership by minorities — especially blacks and Hispanics — particularly in the formation of new parishes out of the merger of existing parishes.

Fifty-four hearings were held for affected parishes from Nov. 1 to Dec. 10. Auxiliary Bishop Patrick R. Cooney, chairman of the two committees, presented final recommendations to the cardinal Dec. 19.

The three months since the initial announcement were marked by prayer vigils, petition campaigns and large-scale meetings in an effort to save parishes. In the last two weeks before the final announcement, groups of mothers and their children greeted the cardinal each morning at his residence and asked him not to close their parishes.

Children also wrote letters and launched balloons at the cardinal's residence on the Dec. 28 feast of the Holy Innocents to mark their protest.

On Dec. 29 protesters picketed the cardinal's home as he prepared to meet with Detroit's auxiliary bishops and the presbyteral council to present the committees' final recommendations.

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