

# St. Anne's controversial pastor to leave post in June

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — When St. Anne's School closes in June, so too will the term of St. Anne's controversial pastor, Monsignor William Roche.

During weekend Masses May 6-7, Monsignor Roche announced that he was retiring from his pastorate at St. Anne's, and that he intended to go to California to study creation theology, a pursuit he explored while on sabbatical there last year.

Monsignor Roche's announcement came just as some St. Anne's parishioners began circulating petitions calling for his resignation. Yet, according to Father George

Norton, diocesan spokesman, the priest's resignation was not related to efforts to have him removed.

According to Father Norton, Monsignor Roche had consulted with Bishop Matthew H. Clark about moving to California prior to news that parishioners had mounted the petition drive.

Monsignor Roche was assigned to St. Anne's in 1982. This year, he became embroiled in a bitter dispute with the parish council and many parishioners over the diocesan-ordered closing of the parish elementary school. Monsignor Roche had asked the diocese to order the closing, despite a parish council vote to keep it open

through June, 1990.

Parishioners sharply divided over the diocese's February announcement that the school would close in June, and Monsignor Roche became the focal point of anger for those who opposed the decision. One group, consisting mainly of the parish council members who voted to keep the school open, is pursuing a claim through the Rochester Center for Dispute Settlement against Monsignor Roche, Bishop Clark, and Father John Mulligan, moderator of the pastoral office.

The claim states that Monsignor Roche violated the parish constitution by closing the school through improper channels. It

also states that Bishop Clark and Father Mulligan breached an implied contract with the parish council by closing the school this year despite past assurances from the diocese that the school would remain open through June, 1990, if enrollment increased and if a bingo fundraising plan were put in place.

Father Norton said that the diocese had yet to receive any formal notification of the claim as of Monday, May 8.

Despite Monsignor Roche's resignation, parishioners will not withdraw their claim against the pastor, Bishop Clark and Father Mulligan, according to Tom Cantin, a

Continued on page 9

## Inside:

Calendar	8
Columns	16-17
Entertainment	11
Op-ed	21
Sports	14-15
Youth	10



# CATHOLIC COURIER

Diocese of Rochester Thursday, May 11, 1989 50¢ 32 Pages

## Potent parable

This month's 'Insight' feature examines the allegorical novel 'Joshua,' which by word-of-mouth has become a best seller with an enthusiastic, almost cult-like following among some local readers. See pages 12-13.

## Fiscal woes challenge parish vision

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Children at the Corpus Christi Child Care Center are celebrating the recent emergence of seven chicks from eggs that had been kept warm in an incubator the center recently purchased.

But one can bet that Linda Haggerty, the center's director, did not count those chickens before they hatched. Haggerty, like the directors of Corpus Christi's four other outreach ministries, has learned that she must continually feather the center's nest if her ministry is to fly into the uncertain future.

In addition to the child care center, Corpus Christi Parish sponsors a health services center at 142 Webster Ave.; Dimitri House, a home and food program for the homeless and hungry, at 102 North Union St.; Isaiah House, a home for the dying, at 71 Prince Street; and Rogers House and Restaurant, a residence and vocational rehabilitation program for ex-offenders, at 271 Central Park. Together, these ministries form a virtual safety net of social services for thousands of low-income people in Rochester.

For the most part, each ministry is keeping its head above financial waters, but each requires a continuing commitment to fundraising from its staff and the free labor of hundreds of volunteers to realize the parish's vision of a more Christian world.

The child-care center serves 52 children, ranging from toddlers barely out of infancy to students at Corpus Christi School. Seven full-time and one part-time employees share duties with 10 volunteers, some of whom are parents paying for child care through their labor rather than cash. Such a set-up allows the center to offer a sliding rate scale — as low as \$20 a week up to a maximum of \$55 — to low-income parents who need child care, Haggerty noted.

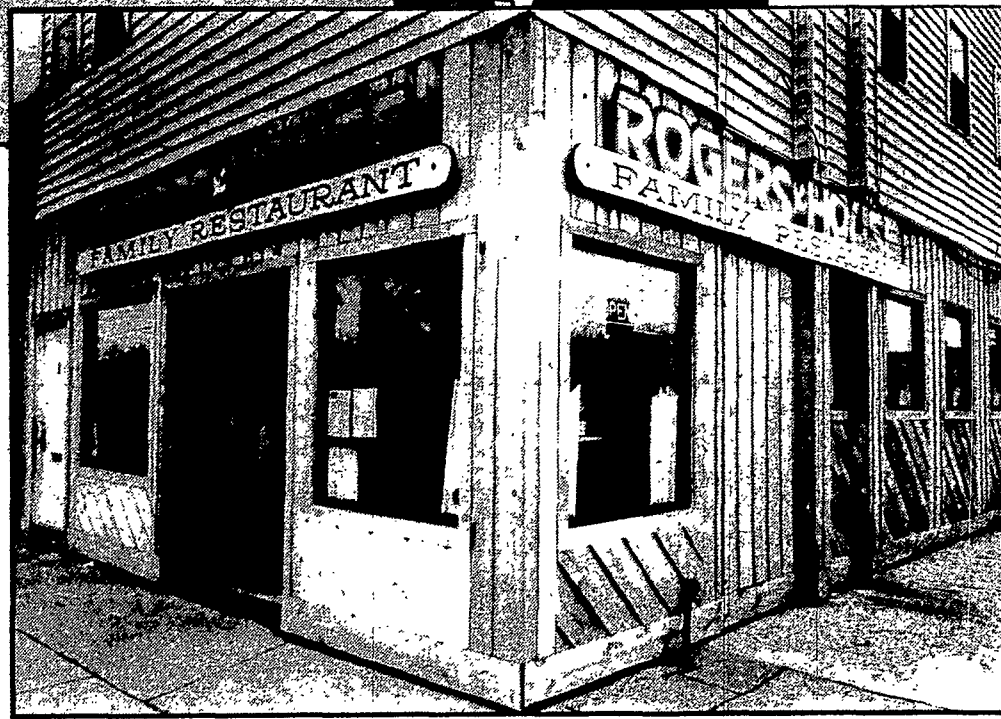
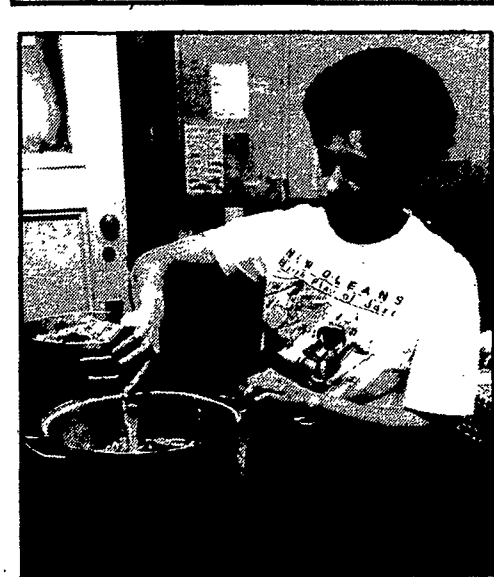
But providing such service is expensive, and Haggerty remarked that her ministry relies on private donations and fundraisers to supplement parent fees. None of Corpus Christi's outreach programs is directly subsidized by the parish, she noted, so such creative financing arrangements as a monthly bottle-deposit subsidy from St. John the Evangelist Parish in Greece help keep the center in the black.

Keeping in the black is a pressing concern for the directors of Rogers House Restaurant, which nevertheless has been losing money at a rate of more than \$1,000 a week, according to Jim Smith, co-director



Linda Dow Hayes/  
Catholic Courier

Some of Corpus Christi Parish's outreach programs are facing budget problems. At left, Margaret Hammele waits on Peter Harman at the Rogers House Restaurant. Below, far left, Jennifer Fray prepares a meal for the Corpus Christi supper program.



of the Rogers House Program. To help alleviate the restaurant's \$56,000 budget deficit, Corpus Christi has instituted a monthly collection for the ministry, which has helped rehabilitate 18 ex-convicts since it began in 1982.

The restaurant opened in December, 1987, to serve as a job-training center for residents of Rogers House, 287 Breck St. The house's volunteers and staff work with inmates preparing for release from Monroe County Jail and Groveland Correctional Facility. Those who are released and who

wish to continue to work with the program can live at the home, where staff members assist them in finding jobs, housing and a new attitude on life.

Smith hopes to foster a positive customer attitude toward the restaurant, which currently employs one ex-offender and one formerly homeless person. Restaurant and food-industry experts have told Smith that restaurants generally experience deficits comparable to that of Rogers House in their first two-to-five years of operation.

One such expert was Kathy Donnelly,

dietician and administrator of the Park Ridge Nursing Home. "I think they're doing all the right things," Donnelly observed. "Their food's delicious." But Smith and his staff need to develop more advertising efforts, she noted, and should start selling take-out meals and remain open late on certain nights for food specials.

Despite the restaurant's financial problems, Rogers House has made life more prosperous for one employee, who asked that his real name not be used. A drug and

Continued on page 9