

# Vinjamuri E. Devadutt, ecumenist, professor, at 81

Vinjamuri E. Devadutt, professor emeritus of ecumenical theology and world Christianity at Colgate Rochester Divinity School and a respected figure in both the Rochester Indian and ecumenical communities, died May 26, 1990, following a long illness. He was 81 years old.

A leading ecumenical figure, he played significant roles at both the first and second assemblies of the World Council of Churches. A longtime member of the First Baptist Church of Rochester, he served as a member of the world council's Commission on Faith and Order and on an international commission to study the issue of the

moral basis for international relations.

Born into a Brahmin family in Pithapuram, Andhra Pradesh, India, he graduated from high school in Rangoon, Burma, before earning undergraduate degrees at Serampore College and Andhra University. He received his master's degree at both Andhra and Calcutta Universities, before leaving India. In 1949 he earned a Th.D. degree at the Emmanuel College of Victoria University, Toronto. He also held an honorary D.D. degree from Arcadia University, Canada.

He arrived in the United States in 1953 to teach at Princeton. His wife, Sushila, a

teacher and social worker, came with their children the following year. They became naturalized citizens in 1963.

Dr. Devadutt also taught at Ohio Wesleyan University before coming to Rochester in 1956 as professor of the history of religion at the University of Rochester and professor of ecumenical theology at Colgate Rochester Divinity School. In 1969, he was a visiting professor of oriental studies at Oxford University, England. He retired from the divinity school in 1974, and was named professor emeritus.

Dr. Devadutt wrote the book *The Bible*

and *Faiths of Men*, and co-authored three others, *Biblical Authority for Today*, *Inter-Communion*, and *History Lessons for Tomorrow's Mission*. He also was author of numerous journal articles.

Dr. Devadutt spent much of his retirement years devoting time, energy and thought to concerns of world peace, anti-war movements, race relations and nuclear disarmament.

He is survived by his wife; a son; two daughters; and six grandchildren.

A memorial service for Dr. Devadutt took place at the First Baptist Church on May 29.

## Sister Alacoque Schmitt, SSJ, longtime diocesan educator

Sister Alacoque Schmitt, SSJ, a longtime diocesan school teacher, died Wednesday, May 30, 1990, at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary after a long illness. She was 89.

Friends of Sister Alacoque said they will remember her as a quiet person, who was friendly, open and gentle with everyone she met.

A native of Rochester, Sister Alacoque entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1923.

After receiving a teaching certificate from Nazareth Normal School, she embarked on a career of teaching students in the third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades.

Sister Alacoque's first assignment was at St. Francis Xavier School, Rochester, in 1925. She later taught at Our Mother of Sorrows School, Rochester; Sacred Heart,

Perkinsville; St. Mary, Dansville; other Rochester schools; as well as schools in Seneca Falls, Mt. Morris, Geneva, Canandaigua, Elmira, Corning, Auburn and Waverly.

She retired from teaching in 1964 because of ill health, and moved into the infirmary that same year.

Sister Alacoque is survived by two sisters, Louise Knapp and Teresa Schmitt, both of Rochester; a brother-in-law, Louise Knapp of Rochester; and two nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Alacoque was celebrated Friday, June 1, at the Motherhouse chapel. Burial was in the Sisters' section of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

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Continued from page 3

dowment fund. Money from that sale made up a portion of the fund, but the fund lacked sufficient funds to endow the professorship until the recent anonymous donation.

The professorship of Catholic studies will join another endowed professorship in the department, the Philip S. Bernstein Professorship in Jewish Studies, which was established in 1974.

Students at the university may receive a bachelor of arts degree in religious studies through the department.

Green said that study of Catholic thought and history are important in the modern world.

"The historic role of the church and its teaching in shaping the culture and politics

persists in the contemporary world," he observed. "The dramatic developments in Eastern Europe and Latin America — to pick two obvious examples — reveal the pertinence of Roman Catholic studies to an undergraduate education designed to help students comprehend the world they will inherit."

— Lee Strong

## Local Carmelites to mark 60th anniversary with Mass

ROCHESTER — The Discalced Carmelites of the Monastery of Our Lady and St. Joseph, 1931 Jefferson Road, will mark the 60th anniversary of their arrival in Rochester with a thanksgiving Mass concelebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark at 9:30 a.m. on June 18.

The local celebration coincides with the 200th anniversary of the arrival of Carmelite nuns in the United States.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## GENERAL

### Card of thanks 2

**HOLY SPIRIT** you who solves all problems, who lights all roads so that we can obtain our goals. You who gives us the divine gift to forget all evils against us and that in all instances you are with us. I want to thank you for all these things and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you even in spite of all material illusions. I wish to be with you in your eternal glory and thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. Thank you Holy Spirit and St. Jude. M.L.

### Miscellaneous 9

Immaculate Conception School, Wellsville, NY, needs by September 1, 1990, Catholic Elementary Principal, pre-K - 8; enrollment 130 students; excellent academically. Parish search committee seeks a strong leader, an innovative educator, with a strong commitment to Catholic education. Qualifications: Practicing Catholic, master's degree, administrative certification or willingness to work toward it.

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