

# Villa honors maintenance man's dedication

ROCHESTER — Sister Elizabeth Mandell, SSJ, recalled that her brother Sylvester's tireless dedication to St. Joseph's Villa would reveal itself in a hundred different ways.

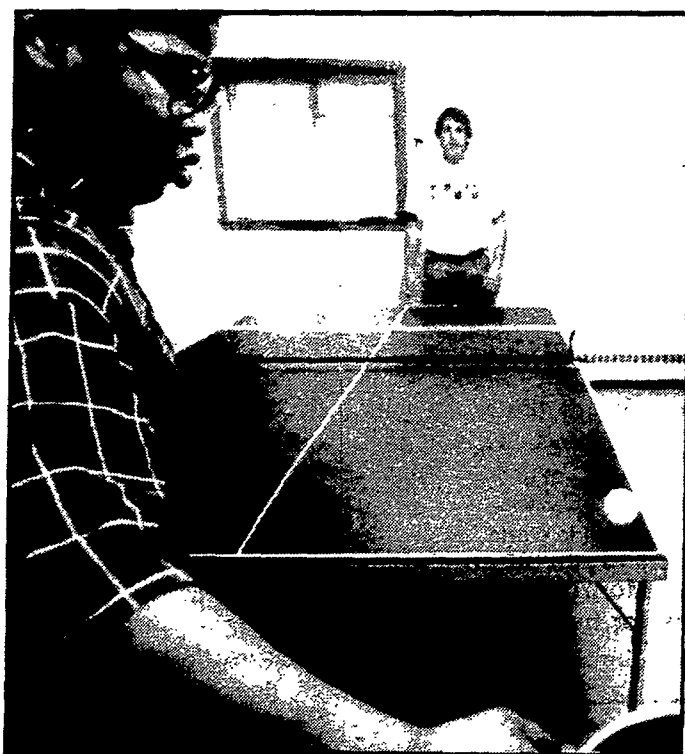
"If the furnace went, he'd be here no matter what the hour," she said of the villa's former maintenance man, who retired from his post in 1986. "He was always subject to anybody's call."

Sister Mandell, currently a campus intake social worker for the agency, worked alongside her brother from the villa's start as an orphanage run by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1942.

Today, the villa is a private, not-for-profit, non-denominational agency that provides a variety of mental health and support services to adolescents and families from central and western New York.

Sylvester Mandell's service to St. Joseph's was recently recognized when the agency opened Mandell Cottage earlier this spring. The 10-bedroom cottage will eventually be home to 14 teenage boys, and currently houses 13 boys, said John Kinsella, cottage supervisor.

The cottage's opening culminates four years of expansive work on the Dewey Avenue campus, said Mary Ellen McArdle, director of community relations. Mandell Cottage is the renovated building that formerly housed the villa's social services offices, she said.



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer  
Mandell residents and staff enjoy the facilities.

On a daily basis, St. Joseph's 280-member staff serves more than 250 adolescent boys and girls. In addition to providing 24-hour housing for emotionally-troubled youngsters, the villa also offers schooling, counseling and other services to enable teenagers to cope with daily living after having had difficulty at home and/or in school.

Kinsella said that the boys who stay at Mandell Cottage have a structured schedule combining recreation, school and discussions with counselors. "We really try to make it as home-like as possible," Kinsella said of the cottage, pointing out its various recreation rooms.

Most of the teenagers stay one to one-and-a-half years in the villa's residential program, McArdle said. "Our ultimate goal is to return the child to the parents whenever possible," she said.

Frank A. Cimino, the villa's director of residential treatment services, said about half of the teenagers eventually return to their families. Those who do not return to their families move into group homes or go out on their own.

Funds for Mandell Cottage's renovation came from a benefit golf tournament, the Ken Kaiser Sports Celebrity Banquet, the #52 Fraternal Order of Eagles, the Greece Rotary and private donations.

— Rob Cullivan

## Fr. Mugavero refuses on principle to pay court's fee

BRIGHTON — As Father Anthony Mugavero walked up to face Town Justice James E. Morris on Monday, June 18, a man in the court room growled under his breath: "Just send him to jail!"

But Father Mugavero had already served the maximum amount of time possible in the Monroe County Jail, as his attorney, John J. LaDuca, argued before Morris on Monday night.

The judge had called Father Mugavero back to court because the priest had not

paid a \$27 surcharge on a harassment conviction handed down last April.

The conviction stemmed from Father Mugavero's attempt to stop a Monroe County Jail inmate from having an abortion at a local doctor's office last January 30. The parochial vicar of St. Theodore's in Gates claimed he only spoke to the woman briefly, but a jail counselor accompanying the inmate claimed the priest harassed her and the inmate.

The surcharge is a standard fee that all

convicts must pay according to state law, Morris told LaDuca, who countered that surcharges have been waived in the past by courts when the maximum possible sentence in a case has been imposed.

In Father Mugavero's case, the maximum possible sentence was the 15 days in county jail to which Morris had sentenced the priest. Father Mugavero served the sentence last month. Yet, Morris told LaDuca that the maximum penalty included the surcharge.

"The surcharges are not discretionary," the judge said, "they are statutory."

The judge adjourned the matter until July 30, by which time Steve Wickmark, Monroe County district attorney, said he will have prepared a criminal contempt of court case against Father Mugavero.

Morris also pointed out that the priest's failure to pay the surcharge could affect his appeal of his conviction which is now pending in county court.

"The sentence has not been fully served," he said. "Wouldn't it be to (your) advantage to pay the surcharge?"

It wouldn't, according to Father Mugavero, who later said it's "not a matter of the how much it is. It's a matter of principle."

The priest claims he is innocent of the harassment charges. LaDuca later said that when he appeals the case, he'll argue that the inmate — who corroborated Father Mugavero's testimony in court last April — was illegally brought to court by Brighton Town Police.

"In my personal conversations with the lady, she denies ever being served with a subpoena," LaDuca asserted. "The D.A. ... in a month and a half (since the trial) has not provided a subpoena."

LaDuca also dismissed Morris' contention that Father Mugavero's failure to pay the surcharge will adversely affect his appeal. "I think that the judge has hinted at that perhaps in an effort to make Father Mugavero produce payment," he said.

— Rob Cullivan

## St. Hyacinth's School to join Blessed Trinity

AUBURN — A proposal to consolidate St. Hyacinth School with Blessed Trinity School has earned diocesan approval.

In a letter dated June 18, Bishop Matthew H. Clark granted a request of the St. Hyacinth parish leadership council to close the school building this month and merge their school program with Blessed Trinity's.

The leadership council voted at their June 14 meeting to request the change after learning that St. Hyacinth's projected enrollment for kindergarten through grade eight next fall was only 45 students.

The 84-year-old school's enrollment at the beginning of the 1989/90 school year had been 69.

In the letter requesting the consolidation, the council said, "We believe that for Catholic schools to survive into the 21st century, we must unite our efforts and collaborate with the other parishes in Auburn rather than stress parochial attitudes."

The letter was signed by Father David

Stopyra, OFM Conv., pastor of the parish; James Dacey, chairman of the parish leadership council; and Sister Walter Anne O'Malley, SSJ, principal of Blessed Trinity School, and, since January, 1990, supervising principal of St. Hyacinth's.

The leadership council vote followed an emergency school board meeting in late May. Brother Brian Walsh, CFC, diocesan superintendent of schools, convened the meeting to discuss the drop in enrollment.

St. Hyacinth students will join students from Sacred Heart, St. Alphonsus, St. Ann's (Owasco), Holy Family and St. Aloysius parishes in Blessed Trinity's K-8 program. St. Mary's Parish operates its own K-5 program; students in Grades 6-8 from the parish may then attend Blessed Trinity.

Blessed Trinity School was established in 1973. Its 1989/90 enrollment was 225.

— Lee Strong

## St. Mary's opens Hispanic Health Centers

ROCHESTER — St. Mary's Hospital opened two Hispanic Health Centers last Thursday, June 14, both located in a renovated building at 928 North Clinton Ave.

The Centro Medico de la Mujer — Women's Medical Center — and Center de Salud Familiar de Rochester — Rochester Family Health Center — are designed to serve Hispanic neighborhoods where such health care has been previously

unavailable, according to Ann Berry, hospital spokeswoman. The staff at both centers is bilingual, a first in the city.

The two programs are just part of a network of 12 family health care centers opened by St. Mary's across Monroe County in the past two years.

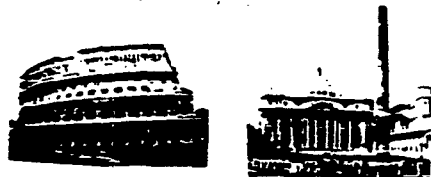
The family center features nine treatment rooms, housing such services as nutrition counseling as well as individual, family and marital therapy.

Berry said the family center's goal is "to encourage Hispanics to get a primary-care physician and to seek medical care on a regular basis, rather than waiting for problems to become so serious they require a visit to the emergency room."

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### No Courier July 5

As has been our custom following the Fourth of July each year, the *Catholic Courier* will not publish an issue on July 5. We will resume our weekly publication schedule on July 12.

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