

Mourners

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One Sunday, Father David Simon, the parish's pastor, asked parishioners to suggest ministries that the parish could undertake. De Marco suggested hospitality.

Madeline Barno, a fellow St. Margaret Mary parishioner, had lost several members of her family over the years, and thought that some sort of hospitality ministry was needed. In fact, she went to church one Sunday with the intention of recommending such a ministry, when Father Simon, who had just received the suggestion from De Marco, proposed that a bereavement hospitality ministry be formed. Barno immediately volunteered.

The hospitality ministry was launched

one year ago, with Barno and De Marco as coordinators. The first funeral was very much a parish affair.

Robert Borromei, husband of parish secretary Jan Borromei, died in July, 1990. More than 200 people attended the funeral, and gathered in the church hall afterward.

"It made a difficult time much easier," Jan Borromei recalled. "There were a lot more people than we could have had at the house. It gave me the freedom to talk to people and to be comforted. It made the grieving time easier at the beginning."

"The people that we've done luncheons for come back to the kitchen to thank us," Kiedrowski reported.

Kiedrowski added that in the past, extended families were able to provide the service that Martha Ministry does. But families today are more scattered, she

observed.

In one way, she noted, the ministry allows the parish to provide the kind of support and help people once found in family members. "That's what we try to tell the people, that there's someone there who cares," she said.

Both programs now have crews of volunteers who help in a variety of ways. Some people prepare food at home, some serve the food, others set up for the meal and clean up afterward.

At St. Margaret Mary's, the hospitality ministry offers two options: a sit-down meal for afternoon funerals, or coffee and cake following evening funerals. Because the ministry team buys the food and cooks the meal for the afternoon funerals, a fee of \$3 per plate is charged.

The food at St. Mary's is all prepared

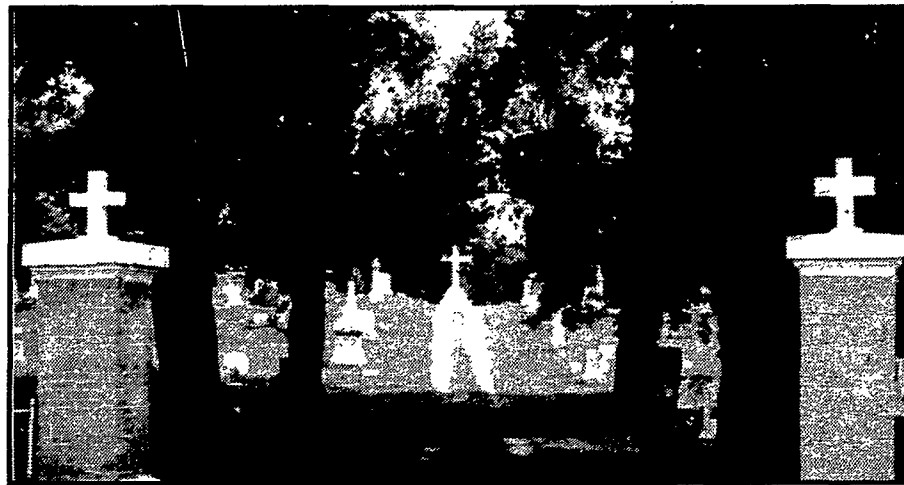
pot-luck style by volunteers at home, and Kiedrowski coordinates the volunteers to make sure that a variety of dishes are prepared.

Thus far, the two ministries have not been called upon too often, as both parishes are small, and people sometimes decline to take advantage of them. Barno estimated that the bereavement hospitality ministry has served at six funerals in the past year, and Kiedrowski estimated that Martha Ministry likewise provides food for an average of six funerals a year.

"It's wonderful to be able to do something for them," De Marco commented. "When the time comes and you're serving and you see the looks on their faces, you really feel that you're serving the Lord."

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Immaculate Conception**
113 N. Geneva St.
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-273-6121

Holy Angels
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Scottsville, NY 14546
716-889-3100

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Stones Falls Rd.
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220 Coldwater Rd.
Rochester, NY 14624
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Webster, NY 14580
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Phelps, NY 14532
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503 Clark St.
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Spencerport, NY 14559
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corner Penfield
Rd./Liberty St.
Penfield, NY 14526
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St. Joseph's
206 Fremont St.
Wayland, NY 14572
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St. Joseph's
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P.O. Box 266
Weedsport, NY 13166
315-834-6266

St. Mary's
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Geneseo, NY 14454
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Horseheads, NY 14845
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Box 77
Livonia, NY 14487
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Union Springs
P.O. Box 296, Main St.
Aurora, NY 13026
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St. Patrick's
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Aurora, NY 13026
315-364-7197

St. Patrick's
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Macedon, NY 14502
315-986-5671

St. Patrick's
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Mt. Morris, NY 14510
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St. Patrick's
Rt. 17 C
Owego, NY 13827
607-687-2105

St. Patrick's
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Victor, NY 14564
716-924-2839

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Lima, NY 14485-0808
716-624-1005

St. Rose
6 Canandaigua
Shortsville, NY 14548
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Churchville, NY 14428
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St. Mary's
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315-789-7180

This is a partial listing of cemeteries of the Rochester Catholic Diocese. Check with the individual cemeteries on availability of plots.