

Conference

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the bandwagon of conflict mediation, which rolled through the secular world in the 1980s, according to Virginia Mackey, consultant in congregation conflict with the Judicial Process Commission, sponsored by Genesee Ecumenical Ministries.

Mackey recalled working with military chaplains last summer on the topic of conflict resolution, and said the Catholic priests, in particular, were all ears when it came to learning how to work out disputes with staff members.

"Those who were Roman Catholic were especially interested," Mackey said of the priests, who told her they were unaware of the skills and resources that can be used to resolve conflicts peacefully.

Mackey — also a conference speaker — said her talk will explore five methods of resolving conflicts: avoidance, accommodation, negotiation, force and conciliation. In particular, she cited conciliation as a method that goes one step beyond the

others in ensuring that the feelings — not merely the opinions — of the disputing parties are reconciled.

Such efforts are important for parishes and congregations, Mackey and Ramerman said, citing studies showing that conflicts hinder ministry in 75 percent of all churches. In the remaining 25 percent of churches, these studies indicate, unresolved internal struggles may thwart all efforts to create new ministry directions and goals.

"The general idea is to get people more aware of how to manage conflict productively," Ramerman said of the conference.

EDITORS' NOTE: Registration fee for the conference is \$35 per day. Pre-registrants may purchase a lunch for \$3.75 in addition to their registration fee. Walk-in participants should bring brown-bag lunches. Topics will be similar on both days, with an emphasis on the clergy and staff members' viewpoints on April 19 and on the lay members' viewpoints for April 20. For information, call 716/325-7727.

Father Michael W. Wurzer, 90, former Aquinas teacher

ROCHESTER — Father Michael W. Wurzer, a former high school teacher and assistant pastor at two diocesan parishes, died from pneumonia on April 1, 1991. He was 90-years-old.

Father Wurzer was born the son of John Wurzer and Amelia Kreuger Wurzer on Nov. 1, 1900, in Rochester. He was baptized in Holy Family Church and attended the parish school. He then went to St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, and received a master of arts degree at Niagara University.

He was ordained June 6, 1925, and took his first assignment as assistant pastor at

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish. Six years later, he was appointed to the staff of St. Andrew's Seminary, where he taught until 1941.

He moved to St. Mary's, Dansville, in 1942 and served there as assistant pastor until he joined the faculty at Aquinas Institute in 1945. He taught Latin, Greek and other subjects at Aquinas until 1954, the year he retired. Since his retirement, the priest lived at St. Ann's Home, 1500 Portland Ave.

Father Wurzer is survived by his brother, John G. Wurzer; two nieces; and a nephew.

Cyclists

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Mack and Mangan are looking for ways to get word out about the venture. Among the possibilities are contacting campus ministry offices at local colleges, speaking at parishes, working with a local radio station for which they will phone in reports while on the road, and even going door-to-door.

During the trip, Mack and Mangan will travel without a support vehicle. The possibility exists, therefore, that they could undergo a complete breakdown of one of the bicycles and not have a spare one available, or suffer injuries.

"We kind of say to ourselves every now and then, 'What are we getting into?'" Mangan acknowledged. "If we knew, maybe we wouldn't do it."

But such concerns will not deter them, Mangan said.

"We're not going to let the fear of a possible injury, a broken (bicycle) frame, whatever, stop us from trying," he declared.

EDITORS' NOTE: Donations can be made payable to CFC Bike for the Homeless, c/o the Catholic Family Center, 50 Chestnut St., Rochester, N.Y. 14604. For information, contact Mack or Mangan at 716/442-5958.

Sister Margaret Teresa Kelley, SSJ, at 87

ROCHESTER — Sister Margaret Teresa Kelley, SSI, professor emerita of English at Nazareth College and a former columnist for the *Catholic Courier* (then *Courier-Journal*), died Monday, April 1, at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary after a brief illness. She was 87.

Born in Ithaca, Sister Margaret Teresa spent her early years in Boston, and Ottawa, Canada. After graduating from Nazareth Academy, she earned a bachelor's degree at Cornell University and a master's degree from Columbia University. She then entered the Sisters of St. Joseph.

Sister Margaret Teresa joined the Nazareth College faculty in 1928, teaching a variety of courses in English and world literature. She returned to Cornell to earn her doctorate in 1938.

Sister Margaret Teresa served as chair of Nazareth's English department from 1956-1967, and was known for incorporating Dante's *Divine Comedy* into the freshman

curriculum.

After retiring in 1977, she continued to teach literature at the graduate level, working in the college's Lifelong Learning program. In 1979, the college's Alumni Association honored her with its Distinguished Faculty Service award. In 1987, Nazareth conferred on her an honorary Doctor of Letters degree, in recognition of her outstanding achievement as teacher, scholar and mentor at the college.

Sister Margaret Teresa wrote poetry, essays, articles and book reviews for such national publications as *America*, *Thought*, *Renascence* and *Choice: Books for College Libraries*. She also wrote a weekly column on literature in the *Courier-Journal* for 20 years.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Margaret Teresa was celebrated in the Sister of St. Joseph's Motherhouse Chapel on Thursday, April 4. Interment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

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