

Parish plans to open clothing store this fall

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Maureen Domaratz had her head up in the clouds the day she came up with the idea for a new parish outreach ministry.

While flying to Columbus, Ohio, on a business trip about a year ago, the Corpus Christi parishioner picked up a magazine and read an article entitled "From Rags to Riches." The article detailed the successful entrepreneurial efforts of a Boston investor who had opened up an exotic used-clothing store.

"That person was making quite a lot of money from rags," Domaratz recalled after reading in the article. "I told Pat (her husband) it would work as an outreach."

The couple then began working on the concept of a donated-clothing store, which would be operated by parish volunteers. They wanted the store to aid low-income customers struggling to outfit their families on stretched budgets.

The idea will become a reality this September, when "Matthew's Closet" opens in the parish's old school building, 84 Prince St., located across the parking lot from the church at 864 E. Main St.

According to the Domaratzes, the new center's name was taken from the 25th chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel, in which Jesus describes how the Last Judgment will take place. Jesus notes that — in part — the just will be rewarded because, "when I was naked, you clothed me."

Last November, after Patrick Domaratz and his wife discussed the idea of opening a clothing ministry, the couple took the concept to Father James Callan, pastor of Corpus Christi. In addition to Father Callan advocating the concept of the clothing store in the parish's weekly bulletin, the Domaratzes formed a 14-member commit-

tee to explore the idea. They also contacted a number of Rochester-area, donated-clothing centers to see whether a need existed for a new clothing store.

Over and over again, Patrick Domaratz said, staff at such donated clothing centers — such as the facilities operated by the Volunteers of America and Ss. Peter and Paul Parish — cited the growing number of people seeking garments. The clientele at one area clothing center had increased 50 percent over three years, he said.

Patrick Domaratz added that Corpus Christi Church has been welcoming an increasing number of native Puerto Rican families into the parish. These families can afford little more than the rents they pay, he said. In addition to low-cost clothing, they also need inexpensive appliances and houseware, he said.

The committee decided to locate the new store in the old parish school building, which currently houses the Septima P. Clark Alternative School and the parish's child-care center. The building formerly housed Corpus Christi School, now located at the old junior high school building at Blessed Sacrament Church, 534 Oxford St.

Occupying several rooms on two floors, "Matthew's Closet" will feature two clothing display rooms on the first floor — one filled with adult clothing and the other filled with maternity and children's wear; a first-floor dressing room; as well as a hallway that will serve as the checkout area and possibly as a jewelry display area.

The second floor will accommodate three sorting rooms, the center's administrative office, a restroom and changing room, and two more display rooms.

EDITOR'S NOTE: For information on volunteering to help open Matthew's Closet, call Corpus at 716/325-2424, or the Domaratzes at 654-5562.

Ukrainian activist to speak on visions, Soviet reform

GATES — Josyp Terelya, recognized throughout the world as a leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, will visit the Rochester area next week to share messages he claims come from the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Catholic journalist and activist, who was deported from the Ukraine in 1987 and now lives in Toronto, Canada, is scheduled to speak at St. Theodore's Church, 168 Spencerport Road, on Thursday, July 25, at 7:30 p.m.

Terelya spent 23 years in Soviet prisons because of his beliefs and activism on behalf of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, which was outlawed in 1946 by former Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin. Although the church in the Soviet Union has regained much of its freedom in the last few years under Mikhail Gorbachev, Terelya and other Ukrainian activists have criticized the Soviet president for not easing restrictive religious policies enough.

Terelya's visit is part of a monthlong tour of the United States. The tour organizer, Marie Leman of Buffalo, is a friend of Carol Leary, a parishioner of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Rochester.

"I've always had a special place in my heart for (Ukrainians) because I know a lot of people in the Ukrainian community and am aware of their suffering," Leary said.

Terelya maintains that the Ukraine will become an independent nation, and claims his belief is grounded not only in objective observation of the Soviet Union, but in spiritual revelation as well.

In a *Catholic Courier* article from March, 1989, Terelya said he and

thousands of other witnesses saw an apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Ukrainian village of Hrushiv in May, 1987. Part of Mary's message at Hrushiv was that the Ukraine would be free in 10 years, and that Ukrainian Catholics must work to convert the Soviet Union to Christ, lest the nation plunge the world into a third world war.

Leary said she approached Father Anthony P. Mugavero, parochial vicar at St. Theodore's Church, with the idea of hosting a Terelya visit because she and the priest conduct a Medjugorje holy hour at the parish the first Saturday of each month. Leary said she has traveled four times to Medjugorje, the Yugoslavian village where apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary have been reported.

In addition to telling about his own reported vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the exiled Ukrainian will detail his life under Soviet rule. Terelya's experiences formed the basis for his recently published book *Witness to Apparition and Persecution in the U.S.S.R.*

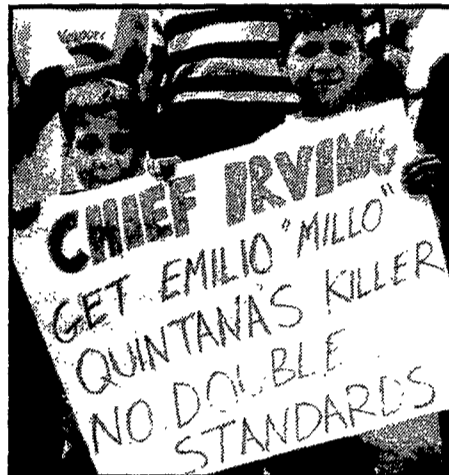
Terelya has also stated that the West should let the Soviet Union's communist regime collapse, and that such a disintegration will take place as long as the Western democracies encourage the nationalist movements in the Soviet Union.

Terelya's speech, which is free and open to the public, will be preceded by a recitation of the rosary at 7 p.m. A collection will be taken up to buy Bibles and rosaries for Ukrainian Catholics, Leary said.

— Rob Cullivan



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer
Community activist Domingo Martinez Jr. led the July 6 "March Against Crime," in which about 50 people walked from Red Wing Plaza on Rochester's North Clinton Avenue to the Liberty Pole downtown.



Freddie Quintana (left) and his brother, Wilbur, hold a sign urging police action on the recent murder of their father, Emilio.



Jazmin Alvarez (left) and her mother, Agustina, listen to speakers at the rally. Jazmin's brother, Luis, was killed June 29.

Marchers call for safer streets

ROCHESTER — As the City of Rochester continues toward a record for the number of murders in one year, one diocesan priest has become active in advocating long-term solutions to the crime wave.

Father Laurence C. Tracy, pastoral assistant for the Rochester area for the diocesan Office of the Spanish Apostolate, said Catholic parishes need to address head-on the difficult situations facing many residents of low-income neighborhoods. He also cautioned against short-sighted approaches to resolve the problems.

"There is a lot of anger and frustration out there, and unfortunately, it gets worked out against innocent victims," he said.

Father Tracy was one of several Rochester-area religious leaders who spoke during an anti-crime march and rally on July 6. The rally was organized by Do-

mingo Martinez Jr., a community activist and host of a radio show for Hispanics on WGMC-FM.

About 50 people, including several family members of murder victims this year, participated in the march. Participants started from Red Wing Plaza and marched down North Clinton Avenue to the Liberty Pole on Main Street.

Father Tracy attributed the city's crime problems in part to unemployment and a lack of education and substance-abuse programs for the poor. The priest said the church should be in the forefront of working for social programs to reverse the murderous tide, rather than letting those who advocate "law and order" approaches dictate society's response.

The priest added that the church should support efforts to reinstate government social programs that have been cut back in recent years.

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