

# Black priest inspires participants at revival

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — The first evening's services at the Black Catholic Revival made many rock 'n' roll concerts seem sedate by comparison.

The revival began Monday, July 22, at St. Augustine's Church, 410 Chili Ave., and was scheduled to continue through Wednesday, July 24.

The congregation — which exceeded 200 in number — quickly warmed to Father John Judie's rhythmic preaching style, which was more akin to that of a black Pentecostalist or Baptist minister than to the delivery of the average Catholic priest.

"His name is so sweet, you can taste it in the apple!" Father Judie proclaimed in his sermon. "His name is so fragrant, you can smell it in the rose!"

"He" is Jesus, and after listening to Father Judie's powerful, singing commentary, no one could have left the revival without knowing the Lord's name.

"He was the zoo-keeper for Daniel in the lion's den!" Father Judie trumpeted, drawing congregational responses of "Amen," "Hallelujah" and "Praise God."

"I found out when they hauled me up on sin, Jesus stepped in, and he dropped the charges!" he asserted.

The African-American priest — a seasoned revivalist, musician and choir director from the archdiocese of Louisville, Ky. — gave a series of sermons after opening prayers, Scripture readings and choir selections from other revival participants.

Jacquelyn Dobson, executive director of the diocesan Office of Black Ministries, opened the evening with a call to worship. Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey later welcomed Father Judie on behalf of the diocese, and Father Edward Dillon, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church, gave a reflection on a reading from Matthew's Gospel.

The 45-member New York Revelation Choir punctuated the service with spirituals, ranging from lilting songs of praise to rocking renditions of salvific hope. "You Can Make It If You Try" and "Just A Closer Walk With Me," were among the pieces that kept the service moving.

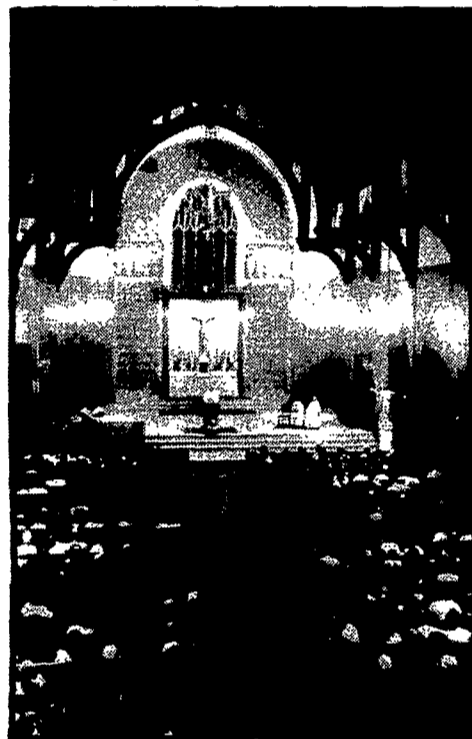
Ten Catholics were among the choir's members, according to Larry Lawson, director. He noted that his group, which included a four-piece back-up band, is based



Phillip Archer/Photo intern  
Father John Judie, a revivalist, musician and choir director from the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky., gave a series of sermons after opening prayers, readings and choir selections from other revival participants.



Father Judie uses a fan to stay cool as he and Father Edward J. Dillon of Rochester's Immaculate Conception Church listen to a speaker.



More than 200 people turned out for the first evening of the Black Catholic Revival, which was scheduled to continue through July 24.

in Rochester and often sings at Protestant and Catholic services across the country.

St. Augustine's was also witness to a phenomenon rarely seen in most Catholic churches — verbal testimony by congregation members of how the Lord has blessed their lives.

At Father Judie's urging, more than a dozen people stood up and related tales of the comfort they had found in God during such crises as broken engagements, mental

depression and financial troubles.

At the end of the service, some members of the congregation submitted their names and addresses so that members of the revival's "Counselors and Consolers" group could contact them in the coming weeks for follow-up programs.

Following the service, participants gathered for a reception in the yard next to the church.

Melvin and Yvonne Walker regularly take part in a Bible study group at the House of Mercy, 102 Central Park. The couple differed on their impressions of the service.

"It was nice," Melvin Walker remarked. "The man is extremely educated. I think he was a little bit of a showman."

Yvonne Walker, on the other hand, enjoyed the priest's style.

"He didn't talk at them," she observed about Father Judie's address to the congregation. "He talked to them. Some preachers just get up there, read the Bible and leave."

Robert Rosier, an 18-year-old parishioner from St. Bridget's Church, 175 St. Bridget's Drive, served as an usher at the revival and raved about Father Judie's style.

"I usually don't go to revivals, but when I heard that Rev. Judie was coming, I wanted to see a black person come up and excite the people," he said.

"Everything seems to be nonchalant here in Rochester," Rosier continued. "Everybody seems to be blasé, blasé, blasé. People need to get serious about God and religion."

In addition to St. Augustine's the other sponsors of the revival were the diocesan Office of Black Ministries, and the parishes of Corpus Christi, Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Good Counsel, St. Bridget's, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Monica's and Ss. Peter and Paul.

EDITORS' NOTE: The Catholic Courier will provide more coverage of the Black Catholic Revival in next week's edition.

## Principals appointed to three diocesan schools

ROCHESTER — The Diocese of Rochester has announced the appointment of three new principals to head schools for the 1991-92 school year.

Brother Brian Walsh, diocesan superintendent of schools, announced the appointments of Mary Kime as principal of Holy Trinity, Webster; Debra-Anne Eveland as principal of St. Helen, Gates; and Floriana Leone as principal of Christ the King, Irondequoit.

Kime, a resident of Webster, has taught at Holy Trinity since 1970. A graduate of St. Joseph's College in Emmitsburg, Md., and Nazareth College of Rochester, she holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in education.

Since 1982, Eveland has taught at Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish and Holy Family, where she also has served the past two years as administrative assistant, coordinating the junior high school's activities.

Eveland lives in the city, and is a graduate of Nazareth College. She holds a master's degree in education from the University of Rochester.

A graduate of Nazareth College, Leone holds a bachelor's degree in liberal arts and a master's in education. Also a resident of the city, Leone taught at Nazareth Hall School from 1972-78, and at St. Theodore's in Gates since then.

The principals assume duties Aug. 14.

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