

Services proliferate for the hearing impaired

ROCHESTER — The number of Monroe County parishes providing services to the hearing impaired has risen dramatically over the past four years, according to survey results released by Catholic Family Center's Department of the Disabled.

When the department issued its last accessibility survey in 1988, only 15 Monroe County parishes provided such hearing devices as audio loops for parishioners. The 1992 survey noted that 33 churches now provide audio loops — marking an increase of more than 100 percent since 1988.

In addition, 36 churches now offer interpreters for the hearing impaired, either at regularly scheduled weekend Masses or on request.

The increase in accessibility for the

hearing impaired typifies a growing awareness among parishes that the disabled need such services, noted Lucy Dechaine, director of the Department of the Disabled.

"We have purposely avoided urging churches to become accessible because we hoped that raising their consciousness would be enough," Dechaine said.

The survey, which covered 78 Monroe County parishes, also revealed the following statistics:

- Sixty-six churches are classified as accessible to the disabled. These parishes have installed wheelchair ramps or other building features that make it possible for disabled people to enter worship areas.
- Thirty-seven parishes have rest

rooms that are accessible to the disabled.

- Of the 35 parishes with schools, 18 said their schools were accessible to the disabled.

- Fifteen parishes said their rectories were accessible to the disabled.

The department was aided in its survey efforts by Tony Ferreri, an employee of AC Rochester. The company "loaned" Ferreri to the department for several months in 1991-92 through a program matching corporations and not-for-profit agencies. The program receives funding from the United Way of Greater Rochester, Dechaine said.

Dechaine and Ferreri stressed that the survey was far more in-depth than is indicated by a table summary from which the statistics in this article were

drawn. Among the additional survey data are whether a parish offers materials in Braille or provides religious instruction for the mentally retarded.

The Department of the Disabled plans to put all of the survey into a computerized database, Dechaine said. This will enable the department's staff to respond quickly to inquiries from disabled Catholics looking for parishes that can meet their needs, she concluded.

— Rob Cullivan

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EDITORS' NOTE: For details on accessibility, call your parish or Dechaine's office at the Catholic Family Center, 716/546-7220.



Bishop marks 50th jubilee

More than 1,000 people attended a Sunday, June 6, Mass at Rochester's Sacred Heart Cathedral to celebrate the 50th anniversary of retired Bishop Joseph L. Hogan's ordination. Bishop Hogan (far left) concelebrates the Mass with (from left) retired Auxiliary Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, Bishop Matthew H. Clark, and Father Michael F. Conboy, who served as Bishop Hogan's personal secretary. Bishop Hogan was the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Rochester, serving from 1969 to 1978.

Photo by Babette G. Augustin

AQ breaks ground for new science, athletic building

ROCHESTER — As 1,500 people looked on Monday, June 1, officials broke ground for a new science/physical education facility at Aquinas Institute, 1127 Dewey Ave.

Construction work will not begin, however, until the school raises another \$1 million through its Campaign for Excellence drive.

According to William Ouweleen, Aquinas' director of development, about \$4.4 million already has been raised toward the campaign's \$7 million goal. Half of those funds are earmarked for the new building; the other half is intended to fund a student scholarship and provide faculty support.

Site work will commence this summer on developing a new parking lot, resurfacing the existing one and preparing the new structure's foundation.

But, Ouweleen noted, "We need to raise another \$1 million before we can begin actual construction. It's up to the alumni to rise to the challenge."

To raise the extra \$1 million, Aquinas has established a "Wall of Fame" in which 1,000 Aquinas alumni and friends may purchase bricks at \$1,000 each. The bricks will be displayed in the new facility.

Ouweleen said he hopes Wall of Fame donations — along with the remaining \$1.6 million needed to reach the \$7 million mark — will be raised "by Christmas." The project is scheduled to be completed by the summer of 1993, provided the fund drive remains on schedule.

The addition is planned for the

school's north lawn and will cover 28,000 square feet. Connected by a two-story bridge to the existing school, it will provide laboratories and classrooms for science students.

The portion designated for athletics will feature a gymnasium with seating capacity of about 1,000 — four times that of the current gym. Also planned are weight training, locker and conference rooms.

The June 1 ground-breaking event was attended by the 900-person student body and about 600 guests.

Robert B. Wegman, chairman of Wegmans Food Markets, Inc., scooped up the first shovel of dirt after being presented with the ground-breaking shovel by outgoing school principal

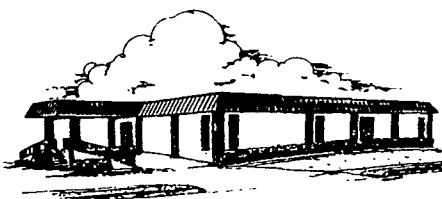
Father Harold B. Gardner.

Wegman, a 1937 Aquinas graduate, got the Campaign for Excellence off the ground in March of 1991 by making a gift of \$1 million.

Other dignitaries wielding the honorary shovel were Bishop Matthew H. Clark; John Nuccitelli, a 1955 Aquinas graduate who is president of the school's Board of Trustees; and Father Gardner.

— Mike Latona

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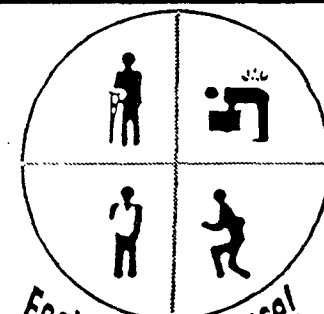
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