

## Senior Lifestyles

# Cayuga cluster joins list of groups studying aging

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

WEEDSPORT — The Northern Cayuga Cluster's Social Ministry Committee saw a need, and Mercy Center with the Aging is helping to fill it.

Last week the Mercy Center began presenting its six-part Family Education Series on Aging at St. Joseph's Church Hall in Weedsport for the cluster, which includes St. Joseph's, St. John's in Port Byron and St. Patrick's in Cato.

Mary Degan, the chairwoman of the social ministry committee, said her group felt the series was needed to respond to the increasing numbers of older people in the cluster.

"Never before has the population been aging so fast," Degan observed. "We need education just to know what's coming and how to help peo-

ple."

Degan said she became aware of the need for education while she was making Communion calls.

"People were asking, 'Where do you go to get services?' and I didn't know," she reported. "Needs are not being met. People don't know where to go."

But educating the elderly is not the only reason the cluster community decided to host the series, noted Father Ronald Frederick, the cluster's parochial vicar.

"It's also for the younger generation who have to cope with parents who are getting up in age," the priest observed.

Providing information for individuals of all ages is indeed one of the goals of the center's education series, acknowledged Sister Gratia L'Esperance, RSM, assistant director of Mercy Center With the Aging.

"We have all ages coming," Sister L'Esperance said.

She reported that more couples and more young people are coming to the center's sessions, not only out of concern for their own futures, but also because increasing life spans mean many couples of middle age and younger are struggling to care for elderly parents.

The center has presented the education series at 82 different churches and agencies since 1984, Sister L'Esperance reported. In addition to the sessions at St. Joseph's, the Family Education Series is also taking place this fall at St. John the Evangelist Church on Ridge Road. The Greece

## Nun, 92, honored at farewell party

IRONDEQUOIT — Sister Mary Marclan Rotonno, SSND, is presented with a plaque during a farewell party held last Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Bishop Kearney High School, 125 Kings Highway S. The 92-year-old sister has worked at the school ever since it opened in 1962. In addition to serving as a chemistry, math and foreign language instructor for 18 years, she was an administrative assistant. Sister Marclan, a Rochester native, is moving this week to the School Sisters of Notre Dame Motherhouse in Wilton, Conn.



S. John Wilkin/Photo Intern

parish is presenting the series in conjunction with Greece Baptist Church.

The series covers such topics as: the effects of aging; caring for elderly relatives; hospital and nursing-home care; home care; improved communication skills; legal planning; and making health-care decisions.

Although the education series is eight-years-old, Mercy Center staff keeps updating to make it relevant, Sister L'Esperance observed. For example, the health-care system — and the rising cost of health care — is especially worrisome to people today.

"I think people are very aware of and very worried about the health care system," Sister L'Esperance said. "People have a fear of losing their health insurance."

Further, the series helps to fight negative attitudes about aging, Sister L'Esperance said. She noted that these attitudes can be easily seen by looking

at the selection of birthday cards offered in any store.

When the education series concludes in a parish, parish leaders frequently decide to create programs or expand services they already offer, Sister L'Esperance reported. Each parish or group of churches, she added, "is as unique as each individual."

Degan pointed out, for example, that the Northern Cayuga Cluster is in a largely rural area. Thus the elderly population faces some problems that seniors in urban areas might not face. Those problems include distance from available services — and from other people.

"Somebody could die out here and we wouldn't know for a week," Degan said. "We need to know the people and the services available."

Father Frederick said one of the cluster's hopes for the Family Education Series on Aging "is for a ministry to come out of this to care for the needs of the elderly."

**GRECIAN GARDENS**

- Safe, quiet, SPACIOUS 1 & 2 bedroom apartments with ample parking
- Close to Greece malls, churches, bus lines
- minutes to expressway
- 24 hour emergency service
- Night security patrols
- Storage locker
- Laundry
- From \$475. heat and hot water included.

Office Hrs: Mon-Fri 8-6 • Sat & Sun 10-3  
72 Grecian Garden Dr., across from Long Ridge Mall

**225-3510**  
Senior Citizen Discount

DIMINO MANAGEMENT

### Senior Support Services

Could you use a hand with everyday chores- shopping, cleaning, medical appts  
Call Nellene today for a free explanation of how we can help you !If you are unhappy with any of our services there is no charge  
Call Today!

328-5210 • 594-4677

### "IF YOU'VE MADE A WILL, THERE'S ONE MORE THING TO DO."

Considerate people who think to the future make wills preparing for the inevitable. More and more of these same people are also taking one more step. They're prearranging their funerals at **Crawford Funeral Home**. This gesture means so much to their families, for it relieves them of making countless decisions regarding final tribute.

To learn more about prearranged funerals, please call us. Our counsel is always available free of charge and at no obligation.

*Crawford*  
FUNERAL HOME INC.

495 North Winton Road  
Rochester, NY 14610  
(716) 482-0400

**Need a Lift?**

(Home, Church or Office)

Call for a FREE Estimate  
ACCESS LIFTS • (716) 663-1056  
Repair Service Also Available

**Continental**  
SCHOOL OF BEAUTY CULTURE

**Men's Hairstyle Specials**  
**\$4.00 for shampoo and cut**

**Senior Citizen Days**  
**Every Monday & Tuesday**

2255 Ridge Rd. E. Culver Ridge Plaza  
342-9011  
633 Jefferson Rd. • 272-8060

**HIDDEN MEADOWS**  
COMMUNITY

**Florida Style Living For 55 years or older**

Top of the line manufactured homes. Secluded & private. Many floor plans available. Professionally landscaped, decks, large lots, lighting. Monthly fee includes: total lawn care, water, sewer, property taxes.

**A Friendly Atmosphere Offering**

- Club House for Community Activities
- Golf League
- Organized Trips
- Card Club
- Much More

**SHOWN BY APPOINTMENT**

**CALL: 494-1424**  
7289 LAKE RD. BERGEN, NY 14416  
1 Mile South of Rt. 33 & 19

**The Shire at Culverton**  
ADULT HOME

- SUITES, PRIVATE AND SEMI PRIVATE ROOMS
- 24 HOUR MEDICAL SUPERVISION
- COMPLETE DIETETIC SERVICES
- TRANSPORTATION
- SOCIAL ACTIVITIES
- UNIQUE TEMPORARY STAY

**"A TRADITION OF LOVE AND CARING"**

**467-4544**  
2515 Culver Rd.  
(Just South of Keeler Expressway)