

## Auburn workshop focuses on multicultural education

Program attracts nearly 100 to St. Mary Church

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

AUBURN — "It must be done as naturally as breathing."

That was the conclusion of a definition developed during a March 23 and 25 workshop on multicultural education at St. Mary Parish, 15 Clark St.

Approximately 100 people attended the two-day workshop called "Starting Out Right: Nurturing Young Children as Peacemakers."

The program was organized by Gary LaLonde, Christian formation director at St. Mary Parish. He was assisted by Auburn-area religious educators and by the Rochester diocese's Department of Evangelization and Catechesis.

Participants included faculty from Auburn's Catholic and public schools, religious educators, members of various faith communities as well as concerned individuals and parents.

The workshop was organized in part as a response to concerns about neo-Nazi attempts to establish a commune in the Auburn area last fall, LaLonde explained. The program was also a response to a recommendation made by Bishop Matthew H. Clark's Task Force on Societal Injustice in October, 1992.

In addition to calling for multicultural curricula in Catholic school programs, the task force recommended workshops about cultural awareness and ways to reduce prejudice for catechetical and school personnel.

"Racism is alive and well in Auburn," LaLonde said.

But, LaLonde added, racism and cultural insensitivity is also flourishing in the United States in general.

"The society in which we live is so inculcated in racism that we have to educate the kids in tolerance, because we can't assume that in our society they will learn tolerance," LaLonde said.

After deciding on an anti-racism theme for the religious educators' winter/spring workshop, LaLonde contact-

ted the diocesan Office of Evangelization and Catechesis, which provided some funding for the program.

LaLonde then contacted Treble Associates, an Auburn firm offering a variety of business-related workshops — including one on multicultural awareness. The company comprises three women, including Melina Carnicelli, a St. Mary parishioner.

Carnicelli told the *Catholic Courier* that she decided to get involved in the fight against racism last fall after reports surfaced about a neo-Nazi group's attempts to establish a commune in Auburn. She joined a group of concerned residents to form the Coalition for a Better Auburn and Cayuga County.

Since her company offers the multicultural-awareness workshop for businesses, Carnicelli said, she was contacted by LaLonde about presenting the program to educators and other concerned individuals.

"The overall objective of the workshop was to move people from awareness to interest to enthusiasm to action," Carnicelli said.

Over the workshop's two nights, participants considered real-life situations, examined their own experiences with prejudice — both as perpetrators and victims — and developed individual action plans.

The group also developed a working definition of multicultural education.

According to the definition, multicultural education is a lifelong process that begins at home and continues through educators' efforts; involves developing respect and appreciation for all people; and nurtures understanding and acceptance of uniqueness of self and others, and awareness of diversity in the world.

The goal of such education, the definition continues, is to help children develop a sense of their own ability to stop reinforcing stereotypes.

A copy of the definition will be sent to all the participants who submitted their own action plans, LaLonde said. In the upcoming months, he will also send out a report summarizing what people have done in their efforts to promote multiculturalism and to combat racism.

## Students offer help to effort



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

All Saints Junior High School seventh-grader Rory Van Grol licks one of the 10,000 stamps used during a recent mailing to help raise money for Southwest Quadrant schools. All 191 children at the Catholic school in Gates donated time during their lunch periods in early March to fold, stuff and stamp envelopes.

## Bishop Clark to celebrate Chrism Mass at cathedral

ROCHESTER — The annual Chrism Mass will be celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park, on Tuesday, April 6, at 8 p.m.

During the liturgy, Bishop Matthew H. Clark will bless the oil to be used for catechumens (converts to Catholicism); the oil used for anointing the sick; and Sacred Chrism, which is used for liturgical anointings such as baptism, confirmation and holy orders, and for blessing altars.

The Mass, which will be celebrated in Spanish and English, will be signed for the deaf. A reception will follow in the cathedral school hall.

Parishes may pick up their filled oil stocks in the cathedral rectory hall immediately after the Mass.

## Courier picks up eight awards at NYPA convention

ALBANY — The *Catholic Courier* won eight awards at the New York State Press Association's 1992 Better Newspaper Contest. The awards were presented during the association's annual convention, held March 19-20, at the Albany Marriott.

Photo Editor Babette Augustin was named Photographer of the Year. "Your migrant worker photo was the favorite of all the shots we judged, but your whole portfolio was great," the judges said in their comments regarding Augustin's work.

Augustin also won first-place awards for Picture Story (Division II) and for Sports Action Photo. The picture story focused on Jeff Brown, a nursing student at Hornell's St. James Mercy Hospital; the sports action photo showed an Elmira Notre Dame softball player siding into home plate.

In their comments, the judges wrote, "puts you right there with Mr. Brown." The picture of the softball player was cited for its "great action and expressions." The paper was also awarded third place for Photographic



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

Excellence (Division II).

The *Courier* received a first-place award for Coverage of Health, Health Care and Science. The paper's entry consisted of stories from its Resurrection issue (April 16, 1992) and its Health Care supplement (July 23, 1992). Written by Rob Cullivan, Mike Latona and Lee Strong, the stories were praised by the judges for "strong, sensitive writing."

The *Courier* received a second-place award in the Graphic Illustration (Division II) category for Matthew Morgaine's drawing of Pope Pius XII and Adolf Hitler (March 26, 1992). The Page One story focused on alleged Vatican inaction during the Holocaust.

Latona also earned an honorable mention in the Sports Feature category for his story on Carmen Basilio. The judges described Latona's writing as "easy to read — interesting."

Erik Kunkel, photo intern, won an honorable mention for Spot News Photo for his picture of pro-life and pro-choice demonstrators facing off at the Spring of Life protests in Buffalo.

## Kearney tabs new principal

IRONDEQUOIT — Sister Elaine Englert, SSJ, has been named principal of Bishop Kearney High School, 125 Kings Hwy. S. The appointment is effective July 1, 1993.

Brother Raymond J. Vercruysee, CFC, Kearney's president and current principal, was scheduled to make the announcement on Wednesday, March 31. Under the new administration's configuration, Brother Vercruysee will continue serving as president, overseeing the institutional advancement office and supervising development, recruitment and public relations. Named principal in 1991, Brother Vercruysee was appointed president last October.

As Kearney's principal, Sister Englert will be responsible for curriculum and faculty.

Currently on sabbatical, Sister Englert recently served as principal of St. Theodore School from 1987-92. She was principal of Nazareth Academy, 1001 Lake Ave., Rochester, from 1980-87. She had served as Nazareth's assistant principal since 1977.

In addition to her administrative experience, Sister Englert taught at Corpus Christi and Holy Apostles schools in Rochester.

She began her career in education in 1969, three years after entering the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester. She holds a master's degree in educational administration and supervision from the University of Dayton, and a bachelor of science degree in business education from Nazareth College.

"Sister Elaine brings to Bishop Kearney a lot of experience, organization and energy," Brother Vercruysee said. "I know she will have quite a positive impact on the Kearney community."

## Talk on 'final hour' set

IRONDEQUOIT — Michael H. Brown, a journalist who uncovered the toxic waste crisis in western New York known as Love Canal, will speak about his new book, *The Final Hour*, on Saturday, April 3, at 8:30 p.m. The program will take place at St. Cecilia Church, 2732 Culver Road.

*The Final Hour* documents such supernatural phenomena as the escalation in reported Marian apparitions around the world in recent decades and ties such events have to biblical prophecies about the possible end of the world.

"Spurred in part by the supernatural occurrences, forces of goodness are regrouping and striking back at the pervasive evil," Brown writes. "After decades of fearful silence the believers are finally entering the fray, and those of goodness and light ... have the opportunity to win if they heed the authentic warnings."

Brown has written articles for such publications as *Science Digest*, *Reader's Digest*, *New York Magazine*, *Atlantic Monthly*, *Discover* and *The New York Times*. His previous books include *Laying Waste: The Poisoning of America*, *The Search for Eve* and *The Toxic Cloud*. He also co-authored *Witness* by Joann Terelka, a Ukrainian Catholic priest for his religious activism from the former Soviet Union in the mid-1980s.