

Couple gives \$3 million gift to 12 schools

ROCHESTER — Robert B. and Peggy Wegman have donated \$3 million for the expansion of pre-school/extended care programs at 12 Monroe County Catholic schools.

Robert B. Wegman is chairman and chief executive officer of Wegmans Food Markets, a large chain of supermarkets located throughout western and central New York. According to a company spokeswoman, the gift is a personal donation from the Wegmans, and not from the company.

The diocesan Catholic Schools Office was scheduled to announce the gift at a morning press conference on Wednesday, April 28, at Holy Family Church, 415 Ames St.

The donation includes funding for scholarship aid, minor building renovations, additional staff and equipment. The Wegmans will give \$1 million per year to the expansion effort over the next three years.

According to a press release from the Catholic Schools Office, the donation will enable the targeted schools to double the number of students currently enrolled in pre-school/extended care programs for 3- and 4-year-old children.

"Now, more than 1,000 children, regardless of religious beliefs, will have an opportunity to participate in a nurturing, cost-effective program," stated Timothy W. Dwyer, diocesan superintendent of schools, in the release about the donation.

Evelyn Kirst, district superintendent for Monroe County-West, told the *Catholic Courier* that about 540 children are enrolled in such programs at the targeted schools. The diocese hopes to see that number grow to 1,065 within the next few years, according to the release.

Kirst said the targeted schools in Rochester are:

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Debbie G. Augustin/Photo editor

Flood waters wreak havoc

A mallard duck seems oblivious to the crashing waves as he takes a swim on the flooded green of a mini-golf course located on the shores of Seneca Lake in Watkins Glen April 23. The U.S. Small Business Administration has declared Wayne, Cayuga, Seneca, Cortland, Onondaga, Oswego and Tompkins counties disaster areas because of flooding.

sary, 420 Lexington Ave.; Holy Family, 899 Jay St.; Most Precious Blood, 179 Stenson St.; St. Andrew, 901 Portland Ave.; St. Boniface, 15 Whalin St.; St. John the Evangelist, 545 Humboldt St.; and St. Monica, 841 Genesee St.

In addition to those schools, St. Margaret Mary, 400 Rogers Parkway, Irondequoit, and Guardian Angels, 2061 E. Henrietta Road, Henrietta, will also receive funding, Kirst explained.

All 12 schools have substantial pre-school populations, Kirst said.

Many parents have asked the diocese to expand the schools' extended care programs, she said.

In the press release, Robert Wegman expressed hope that the early childhood program will be expanded in subsequent years.

"If this method of providing early childhood education produces positive results and is the most cost-effective, we must find ways to continue it until the need is met," he said.

— Rob Cullivan

Sister Ann Miller re-elected as order's leader

Sister Ann Miller, RSM, was re-elected as president of the Rochester Sisters of Mercy during an assembly at the sisters' motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road, on Saturday, April 24.

In addition, Sister Judith Herbele, RSM, was elected vice-president. Both religious will serve four-year terms.

Sisters Joyce McGinn, RSM, Mary



Fran Wegman, RSM, and Sheila Stevenson, RSM, were elected councilors on Sunday, April 25. The three women religious will serve with Sisters Miller and Herbele on the order's leadership team, which will be formally installed on July 3.

The Rochester Regional Community of the Sisters of Mercy numbers 236. The community's sisters in Santiago, Chile voted in the election by using ballots faxed to the motherhouse.

Divinity School to add new women's program

ROCHESTER — The Colgate Rochester Divinity School, 1100 S. Goodman St., will inaugurate its Program in the Study of Women and Gender in Church and Society with a series of events May 1-3.

A multimedia presentation featuring dance, singing and prayer will take place from 2-4:30 p.m. on May 1. Later that evening, Chung Hyun Kyung, a visiting lecturer and research associate in women's studies at Harvard Divinity School, will perform a liturgical dance at 7:30.

Events on May 2 will include seminars from 1-3 p.m.; a lecture from 3-4:30 p.m. by Mercy Amba Oduyoye, deputy general of the World Council of Churches; a 4:30-5:30 reception; and a 7:30 performance of "The Hildegard Cycle" — based on the music of Hildegard of Bingen — by composer Frank Perko.

Oduyoye is scheduled to speak again from 9:30-10:30 a.m. May 3. That presentation will be followed by the 11 a.m. installation of Rev. Melanie A. May, dean of the new program.

For information about the ceremonies or the new program, call Sally Dodgson, 716/271-1320, ext. 284, or the program's office at ext. 254.

Pilot broadcast date set for local children's show

ROCHESTER — A television series pilot titled "PrimeTime ... for Kids" will be broadcast on WGRC-TV (cable channel 9) this Saturday, May 1. The half-hour program, geared toward elementary and junior high school youths, will begin at 7:30 p.m.

This show features seven students from Greece Athena Middle School along with professional actor Bruce Buell, who portrays a time traveler. Their goal is to make the world a better place as they struggle with issues such as peer pressure, prejudice, homelessness and the environment.

Production for the May 1 airing began last summer. The show was conceived and copyrighted in 1989.

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