

Nazareth to hold commencements

PITTSFORD — Nazareth College, 4245 East Ave., will hold two commencement ceremonies this weekend.

For the first time ever, the college will divide the master's and baccalaureate commencements into two separate events. Master's degrees will be awarded to 397 graduates on Saturday, May 8, at 11 a.m. Baccalaureate degrees will be issued to 404 recipients on Sunday, May 9, at noon.

Keynote speaker for the master's commencement will be Dr. Walter Cooper, a member of the New York State Board of Regents. He currently serves as the Regents Committee chairperson on elementary, middle and secondary education.

Delivering the keynote address at Nazareth's baccalaureate ceremony will be Dr. Reatha Clark King, executive director of the General Mills Foundation. This organization makes grants in support of community causes such as education and the arts.

In addition, a baccalaureate service will take place on May 8. An interfaith service will be held at 3 p.m. under the tent on the college's east lawn, and a Mass is scheduled for 4:15 p.m. in the Vasile Alma Mater Chapel at the Shults Center.

St. Philip Neri to host dedication for new organ

ROCHESTER — Dr. J. William Greene will perform a dedication concert on the new Galanti organ at St. Philip Neri Church, 1782 Clifford Ave., on Sunday, May 16. The 3 p.m. concert will feature the Prae-ludium II organ, making St. Philip Neri Church the first Roman Catholic parish in Monroe County to use such an organ.

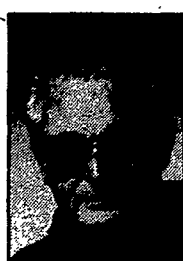
Organ works by Buxtehude, Bach, Mozart, Widor and others will demonstrate the new organ's full range, according to a press release on the event.

Dr. Greene is the organist/choirmaster at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park. The program will begin with Father Richard Shatzel, St. Philip Neri's pastor, performing a blessing for the new organ.

Refreshments will follow the concert, which is free and open to the public. Call 716/482-2400.

Auburn parish to honor Father Matthew Swizdor

AUBURN — St. Hyacinth Parish, 63 Pulaski St., has scheduled a Mass and dinner on Sunday, June 20, marking the 50th jubilee of Father Matthew Swizdor, OFM Conv.



The Mass, which is scheduled for 3 p.m. in the church, will be followed by a reception and dinner at the Holiday Inn, North Street.

Father Swizdor, who is noted for his healing ministry, was first assigned to St. Hyacinth Parish in 1969. Since the 1980s, he has resided at the parish and pursued his healing ministry.

Cost for the dinner is \$20. Tickets may be purchased at the John Paul II Family Faith Center, 192 Clark St., after Masses on May 16. They can also be obtained by calling 315/364-8778 or 315/253-0571.

Tiny casualty of violence



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

St. Mary's in Rochester hosts service to honor victims

Brad Charles (left) and his father, James Miller, attended a May 2 candlelight vigil at Rochester's St. Mary Church to honor victims of violence. Brad's mother, Maria Welch, was one of Arthur Shawcross' murder victims. Sponsored by the Western New York State Coalition for Crime Victims and held in conjunction with Victims' Rights Week, the vigil included music, prayer and speeches by those whose lives have been touched by violence.

Seneca Falls church aiding Nicaraguans

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

SENECA FALLS — Parishioners of St. Patrick Church, 97 W. Bayard St., have collected more than 7,000 pounds of clothing, linens, food and household items, and other materials for a parish in Nicaragua.

The boxed supplies will be transported to Buffalo in June before the items are shipped to St. Rita Parish in Tuestepe, Nicaragua, according to Father David N. Gramkee, pastor of the Seneca Falls parish.

As of Friday, April 30, the parish had filled more than 360 boxes of contributions, which will be stored in donated warehouse space.

Father Gramkee became involved in the effort to raise supplies for the Nicaraguan parish several years earlier as pastor of Elmira's Eastside Catholic Parishes, comprising St. Cecilia, 950 Lake St., St. John the Baptist, 325 Lake St., and St. Peter & Paul, corner of Market and High streets.

Father Gramkee said he met Ann Marie Zon, a Buffalo resident who works at the Nicaraguan parish, while serving in Elmira. Zon returns to Buffalo for occasional visits and seeks donations for the parish, the priest said. Father Gramkee later arranged for Zon to speak at the Elmira cluster's Masses.

"People just respond to her," said Father Gramkee, who added that both his former and current parishes responded to the effort "because this is not your typical request for money."

The Eastside Catholic Parishes collected between 15 and 17 tons of materials for the Nicaraguan parish over a five-year period, Father Gramkee estimated. The Elmira cluster also donated several thousand dollars, some

of which was used to buy a pump to supply water for St. Rita's parishioners.

In January, 1993, Father Gramkee, who had subsequently become St. Patrick's pastor, learned that Zon was again in the United States. After contacting her she spoke at the Seneca Falls parish the weekend of Jan. 2-3.

During Zon's visit to St. Patrick's, Father Gramkee also invited her to the Christmas dinner sponsored by the parish's Mother's Circle. While at the dinner, she met Philip and Florence Liberatore, to whom she spoke about the Nicaraguan parish's ongoing needs for assistance.

"The next day at church, Father Gramkee said, 'How'd you like to chair this?' and we said 'OK,'" Philip Liberatore recalled.

The couple later became co-chairs of the committee overseeing the collection. Philip explained that the volunteers work in two teams: one which sorts the donations brought to the church and packs them into boxes donated by local stores; and the other which transports the boxes from the parish to the warehouse.

Peter Koch, an area automobile dealer, donated the warehouse space, Liberatore said. Meanwhile, Yellow Freight Company officials volunteered transportation services to the warehouse, and a driver as well as a tractor-trailer to transport the materials to Buffalo.

Liberatore said parishioners have responded well to the effort, with contributions ranging from clothing and household items to garden seeds and first-aid supplies. A case of toothpaste was also among the donations.

The sorting crew separates items that would not be appropriate for Ni-

caragua, such as winter clothing and appliances. Those items are donated to local agencies.

So far, the parish has collected enough materials to fill the trailer halfway, Liberatore estimated. "We're looking to fill up that trailer," he declared.

Father Gramkee noted that not all the supplies get used in quite the manner they were intended, either. An area hospital, for example, once donated some sheets that the Nicaraguans chose to cut up and use for material to make first Communion dresses.

In addition to the material goods, the Seneca Falls parish is also collecting money to help the church purchase cows, the pastor said. The Nicaraguan parish distributes the cows — which cost \$100 each — among the people to provide milk for the children.

Those who receive the cows agree to give the first two calves born back to the parish for distribution to other residents. Families may keep any calves after the first two are born.

When this aspect of the program began about five years ago, children in the Nicaraguan village were able to get about one glass of milk a week, Father Gramkee said. The children are now able to get up to three glasses a week because of the program.

The fact that Zon writes regular reports and letters and comes back periodically to report on the program's successes helps to bolster participation, the priest noted.

"Americans are very generous people," Father Gramkee said. "But they don't like to be ripped off. They like to know that what they are giving is being used for what it was given for."