

New pro-life coalition schedules 'Celebration of Life' in Rochester

ROCHESTER — A coalition of 20 area church and pro-life groups known as United for Life has scheduled a "Celebration of Life" from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 6. The event will take place at Manhattan Square Park, located on Chestnut Street near the Strong Museum.

According to Helen Owens, one of the event's coordinators, the celebration will include music, song, dance, a worship service and speakers. Owens said the coalition formed to protest the opening of an abortion clinic at the Ave. headquarters of Planned Parenthood of Rochester and the Genesee Valley, Inc., 114 University Ave. The clinic is expected to open within the next few weeks.

As part of the celebration's preparation, participants have been asked to spiritually adopt an unborn child destined for the clinic, pray for that child the week before the event, and wear a numbered wristband to the

park on June 6, Owens said.

A doctor and parishioner at St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, 4536 St. Paul Blvd., Owens noted that, as of May 26, more than 2,500 wristbands had been distributed.

The Knights of Columbus, Catholic Physicians Guild, and more than a dozen Catholic parishes are among the organizations taking part in the event.

Although United for Life initially formed in response to Planned Parenthood's abortion clinic, the coalition will continue to work together to make the celebration an annual event, and to better coordinate pro-life activities in Rochester, Owens said.

"The talents in these pro-life groups is tremendous, but we just never worked together before," Owens remarked.

For information about the Celebration of Life, write to Owens at 221 Pinecrest Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14617, or call 716/467-5698.

— Lee Strong



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer
Sister Kathleen Murphy, OSP, (left) and Sister Joseph Gilmary Russell, SSJ, have announced that they are leaving their administrative positions in the diocesan Catholic Schools Office.

Catholic Schools Office losing two administrators

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Two key administrators are leaving the diocesan Department of Catholic Schools in the next several months.

Sister Joseph Gilmary Russell, SSJ, assistant superintendent for personnel, is leaving her post this June, and Sister Kathleen Murphy, OSF, district superintendent for schools outside Monroe County, has announced her plans to leave in September.

Celebrating 50 years as a woman religious, Sister Russell will retire from her current position and become administrator of the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse and novitiate, 4095 East Ave. In addition to overseeing staff hiring at the motherhouse, Sister Russell will perform various other duties.

"I'm really going to miss it," said Sister Russell, who has served as an assistant superintendent since 1986. "It put you in touch with the teachers that are the force behind Catholic schools."

Prior to serving as assistant superintendent, Sister Russell spent many years in various teaching and administrative roles.

A graduate of Nazareth Normal School, Sister Russell began her teaching career as a pre-school instructor at Nazareth Model School in 1944. She later taught elementary education at St. Aloysius, Auburn; Mother of Sorrows and Sacred Heart schools, Rochester; Our Lady of Lourdes, Brighton; and finally St. Mary, Auburn.

Sister Russell served as regional superior for her congregation from 1966-75. She was named principal of the former St. Jerome School in East Rochester in 1975, and also served as the diocese's assistant superintendent for elementary administration from 1985-86.

A native of Buffalo, Sister Murphy will serve in the Buffalo diocese's newly created position of associate superintendent of schools.

"I'm very happy to be returning to Buffalo where I received my edu-

cation and most of my experience in my ministry," she recently told *Western New York Catholic*, Buffalo's diocesan newspaper. "I will be bringing to this position my love of children and an understanding of teachers and principals."

In his letter to principals and staff announcing Sister Murphy's departure, Timothy W. Dwyer, superintendent of diocesan schools, wrote that her "gentle and supportive style has made her an effective leader and advocate for cluster schools. In addition, she has enjoyed great success in planning and implementing all professional development activities in the school system. She will be sorely missed."

As district superintendent outside Monroe County, Sister Murphy said she spent much of her time on the road, visiting various schools throughout the diocese.

During her travels, she said she emphasized the need for Catholic schools to engage in public relations efforts to keep enrollment steady and increasing. She pointed to increased enrollment at All Saints Academy in Corning, St. Agnes in Avon and Immaculate Conception in Ithaca as examples of the success public relations efforts can bring to Catholic schools.

Sister Murphy also served as convener of the Multicultural Task Force, which worked to raise awareness of multiculturalism among administrators, teachers and students throughout the diocese.

Before she arrived in Rochester, Sister Murphy spent several years in the Buffalo area as a Catholic educator. She entered the Sisters of St. Francis of the Third Order Regular of Buffalo in 1956, beginning teaching in the 1960s.

In addition to serving as principal at several Catholic schools in the Buffalo diocese, she taught English as a second language to Cuban refugee sisters in Buffalo and to priests as well as seminarians in the United States and Poland.

Sister Murphy was also active as a peace and justice coordinator for her congregation.

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

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The 1993 Catholic Communications Campaign collection will be taken up on the weekend of June 12-13. Half the funds raised remain in the diocese for local use such as our Catholic Telecommunications Network programming. The other half supports national projects such as the acclaimed film "Romero."

The goal of the campaign is to assist in evangelizing through the use of modern media. That is, the audience will become aware of the good of the Catholic Church; will have Christian/Catholic values presented to them (care for the poor, action on behalf of justice, love for the stranger, rights of the human being, etc.); and will be called to belief in God.

Your support helps bring people to an awareness of God's continuing presence.

Come, Holy Spirit, and create in me a renewed desire to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ boldly, yet lovingly, in my actions and in my words.

Fill my heart with God's love so that I may share that love with others. Fill my mind with the wisdom of the Almighty so that my every word will be guided. Fill my soul with the presence of God so that I may know peace.

May I join with all who labor to communicate the word of God, so that as one body, we may help to bring the Lord's light to all people. This I ask through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.

Ven, Espíritu Santo, y crea en mí un deseo renovado de proclamar la Buena Nueva de Cristo Jesús en forma valiente y amorosa, en mis actos y en mis palabras.

Llena mi corazón con el amor de Dios para que pueda compartir ese amor con otros. Llena mi mente con la sabiduría del Todopoderoso para que sirva del guía a cada palabra mía. Llena mi alma con la presencia de Dios para que pueda conocer la paz.

Permite que me una a todos los que se esfuerzan en comunicar la palabra de Dios, para que, como un solo cuerpo, podamos llevar la luz del Señor a todos los pueblos. Te lo pedimos por Cristo Jesús, Nuestro Señor

Amen.

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