



New & improved

A \$50,000 grant from three Rochester businesses will enable the Corpus Christi Child Care Center to take on additional space, renovate and buy new equipment. In Big Flats, meanwhile, the Southern Tier Community Food Bank is building a new facility. Both stories, page 2.

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Ana de la Cruz participated in the Mass for migrant workers at Nativity Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Brockport.



After finishing work in New York, Tomas Paz will travel to Florida to pick oranges. Paz, his two brothers and one sister send money to their parents, who live in Oaxaca state in Mexico.



The migrant-worker families enjoy a dance at Brockport's Nativity School following the June 27 welcoming Mass.



The migrant farm workers started their day at 7 a.m. July 1, picking strawberries for Sodoma Farms in Brockport.

**'... only
by giving
our lives
do we
find life.'**

Cesar Chavez

'La Causa' of Chavez endures

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Although stunned by the death of Cesar Chavez, the United Farm Workers union is moving forward to meet the challenges left behind by its founder.

According to Arturo Rodriguez, Chavez's son-in-law and new president of the union, the issues remain the same for UFW activists: obtaining just and safe working conditions for workers; protection against sexual harassment and child labor abuses; and access to health care.

"It is a shame that in 1993, we face what we do today — even with a new (U.S.) president," Rodriguez said in May during the National Conference on Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in Denver, Colo.

"Now we face efforts to exclude farm workers from national health-care reform," Rodriguez said, referring to a new Washington-state health plan that provides no coverage for them. The Washington plan has been touted as a model for national health reform.

"Why can't the farm worker be treated with the same dignity and respect that all of us expect when we go to work?" he asked.

Rodriguez, 43, called farm work "one of the worst occupations in the country and the most hazardous. With the pesticides, the sexual harassment women have to put up with in order to keep their jobs and the abuse of child laborers, it is literally genocide."

Such injustices as those voiced by Rodriguez were what spurred his father-in-law to launch historic movements on farm workers' behalf.

Chavez, whose legendary endeavors to unionize farm laborers in the 1960s sparked a new generation of Roman Catholic action for social justice, died April 23, 1993, in San Luis, Ariz. He was 66.

Born in 1927 into a family that served as migrant workers during the Great Depression, Chavez was a devout Catholic who never got a high-school diploma but could quote Pope Leo XIII at farm worker strike rallies.

Of three great social battles that wracked America three decades ago — civil rights, Vietnam and the farm workers' struggle — it was the farm labor battle that was uniquely Catholic.

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Farm workers' service recalls Chavez's work

By Mike Latona, Staff writer

BROCKPORT — When we are really honest with ourselves, we must admit that our lives are all that really belong to us. So it is how we use our lives that determines what kind of people we are. It is my deepest belief that only by giving our lives do we find life.

I am convinced that the truest act of courage ... is to sacrifice ourselves for others in a totally nonviolent struggle for peace.

By living this credo, Cesar Chavez helped make life easier for people like Adan Longoria, a farm worker from Mission, Texas.

"He took off the yoke from around us," Longoria said through an interpreter. "He was a very good man for us, the Mexicans, and for other races also."

Longoria, a seasonal migrant worker who has brought his family to this area every summer since 1977, was one of approximately 250 people who participated in a special migrant workers' welcoming celebration Sunday, June 27. The day consisted of a Mass at Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 152 Main St., followed by a dinner and dance at the parish's school.

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