

Funding woes force Mary's House to close

ROCHESTER — Funding problems have forced the Diocese of Rochester to close Mary's House, a residence for HIV-positive women and their children.

The house was operated by diocesan Catholic Charities' Community and Residential Services in a building provided by Corpus Christi Parish.

The last resident left the house August 1, 1993.

The diocese will continue to offer outreach and case-management services to individuals with the HIV virus, which causes AIDS. Sharon Nyquist, who directed Mary's House and the Maternal and Child AIDS Intervention Program, will oversee the diocesan AIDS Services program.

According to Paul Pickering, Catholic Charities' director, despite more than \$10,000 in donations, Mary's House was unable to survive due to the county's funding method.

Pickering explained that county funding was based on the assumption that the house would be occupied at full capacity — four women and four children — much of the time. Such was not the case, and thus Mary's House received less funding than it needed.

Mary's House opened in 1990. It was intended to provide living quarters for

single, pregnant women with the AIDS virus and the women's children. But Pickering said that the house also provided diocesan Catholic Charities with a means to show care and support for people who were HIV-positive or who had AIDS.

"It gave us visibility in the community," Pickering said. "We became a viable Catholic alternative — but not a competitor — to AIDS Rochester."

The diocese now offers case-management and outreach services to those with the AIDS virus, including some women who lived at Mary's House. The growth of that part of the program led to changing its name from the Maternal and Child AIDS Intervention Program to diocesan AIDS Services, he explained.

Thus while Mary's House is closing, Pickering said, it was successful in opening doors for the diocese to provide services to HIV-positive people. "I feel optimistic that what we have will continue to grow," he predicted.

The diocese is considering other options for the building if Corpus Christi Parish — which still owns it — does not make use of it, Pickering said. Among the options is using the building as a respite center for those who have the AIDS virus, or possibly those who are caring for such a person.

— Lee Strong

Taking streets back



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Neighborhoods rally against violence

Robert Barney Jr. of Rochester (right) is confronted by marchers on the corner on Garson Avenue and North Goodman Street during the 10th annual National Night Out against crime on Aug. 3. Barney was among a group of people taunting the marchers. The northeast neighborhood group started its procession with a motorcade at the Waring Road Plaza and proceeded to Fourth Street and Garson Avenue. Participants then marched to a Grand Avenue park, where they held a candlelight vigil. The annual night out against crime is designed to promote cooperative police-community drug and crime prevention efforts.

Mayoral hopefuls target education, housing

CFC sponsored debate on Aug. 3

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — Schools and a heightened focus on neighborhood development were among the key issues discussed as six of the Democratic contenders for Rochester mayor — and the lone Republican candidate — participated in an Aug. 3 forum at St. Michael Parish Hall, 789 N. Clinton Ave.

The event was sponsored by the Catholic Family Center and the Department of Urban Services of diocesan Parish Support Ministries.

The candidates responded to questions posed by a five-member panel from church groups and from the audience of approximately 60 people.

Taking part in the event were six of the seven contenders for the Democratic nomination, which will be determined by a Sept. 14 primary. The six were City Council members Maxine Childress Brown and Nancy Padilla; Deacon John Erb and Kevin Murray, both members of the county legislature; Wilmore Corporation Vice President Karen Noble Hanson; and former City Council president Ruth Scott.

The seventh Democratic candidate, Urban League President William Johnson, was unable to attend because he was in Washington, D.C. for a national Urban League meeting.

Also taking part in the forum was Republican candidate Mark Dulaney, a Kodak employee who used the forum as an opportunity publicly to begin his campaign and to point out differences between himself and the Democrats as a group.

During the discussions, a number of



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Kevin Murray (center), one of seven Democratic contenders for mayor of Rochester, responds to a panelist's question. About 60 people turned out for the Aug. 3 forum, held at St. Michael's Parish Hall in Rochester.

the candidates made proposals for neighborhood revitalization and development, including the creation of more affordable housing.

Several of the candidates pointed to the lack of jobs as one of the problems facing neighborhood residents in their attempts to revitalize and renovate housing.

Deacon Erb called for salvaging empty houses and abandoned lots.

"We must be willing to redirect city resources into rehabilitating our neighborhoods," Deacon Erb said.

Scott likewise promoted neighborhood-based development. She said that in recent years the city has been focusing on downtown development, and that now, downtown people need to play a part in revitalizing the neighborhoods.

Padilla called for a city, county and state commitment to address the issue of housing. She suggested the creation of community banks and for corporations to reinvest in the community.

Murray said city officials should allow neighborhood people to do the planning, and then to provide resources to help achieve those plans.

In terms of education, Murray sug-

gested money can be saved by reducing the parallel bureaucracies in the city school district and the city.

Brown declared that she supports a voucher system to allow parents to decide where their tax dollars for education is spent, and Dulaney also said he advocates school choice in Rochester.

Hanson said her platform calls for a deputy mayor for education. She called for more involvement in the budget-approval process and for the mayor to bring private-sector funds into the school district for such programs as computers and computer training.

Immediately following the forum, Deacon Erb was questioned about an article in the August 1 *Democrat and Chronicle* in which he and the other candidates — including the other three Catholics in the race, Brown, Murray and Padilla — were all reported as saying they "support abortion rights."

Deacon Erb told the *Courier* that he was not "pro-choice." Nevertheless, he said, "A woman is the one who ultimately makes the choice."

When asked why he was taking a
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St. Monica reunions set

ROCHESTER — All graduates of St. Monica's School, 841 Genesee St., are invited to take part in the 95-year-old school's inaugural alumni reunion. The event is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 12, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Call 716/235-4140.

In addition, St. Monica School's class of 1943 is meeting for its 50th reunion on Saturday, Sept. 18, at the Party House, 677 Beahan Road. The parish's 4 p.m. Mass that day will be in honor of that class's deceased members. The reunion gathering will follow at the Party House, with a cash bar at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30. Reservations must be made by Sept. 1. Tickets are \$20 per person.

The Reunion Committee is still trying to locate several missing members from the class. Call 716/225-1133 or 586-6091 for information.

Bosnian service slated

ROCHESTER — An interfaith group has scheduled a worship service for the victims of rape and genocide in Bosnia on Tuesday, Aug. 17, at 7:30 p.m. The program, which is open to the public, will take place at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park.

This service marks the second gathering of Rochester-area Christians, Jews and Muslims to show concern for the war's victims. Following the service a year ago at Temple B'rith Kodesh, approximately 6,000 petitions expressing concern over what was happening in the former Yugoslavia were sent to former President George Bush and the United Nations.

For information about the interfaith service, call Rabbi Judea Miller at 716/244-7060.