

Parliament draws record number of faiths

Continued from page 1
in harmony and in peace."

In a press statement released by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the CPWR, Dr. David Rampage said:

"At a time of increasing anxiety and strife, interfaith dialogue offers a way to unite people in working for peace and the relief of suffering. In particular, we must work to lessen religious conflict around the world."

At the first plenary session on Aug. 28, Robert Muller, former deputy secretary general of the United Nations, echoed Dr. Rampage's concerns.

"Unless there is a spiritual renaissance, this world will know no peace," he said. "We are entering an age of universalism. The whole humanity is becoming interdependent, becoming one."

"We need not just a political new order, but a spiritual new order for the third millennium," he added.

Muller called upon the world's religions to put an end to their feuds and embrace the challenge he laid before them.

"Let all the religions work on what they have in common," he said, being interrupted by applause. "And what divides them, put aside for the very end."

The Rev. John Buchanan of Chicago's Fourth Presbyterian Church also warned against religious exclusivism during a "Sunrise Christian Service" held Sunday, Aug. 29, at St. Peter Catholic Church in the Loop.

The minister preached that religious exclusivism is "the propensity to portray our news as the only news," by those claiming to have "the truth with a capital T."

"Call it fanaticism or fundamentalism, it has tragically come to define our era," he stated. "Absolute truth has been the prelude to real tragedy in history and unfortunately in the present."

While some believe Christians' true mission is to "market Jesus aggressively," Rev. Buchanan said, "I believe our task is to let go of religious exclusivism and the comfort and security it provides us, and boldly trust that all things are in the hands of God."

No one can accuse Catholics of ex-



cluding themselves from the parliament. A list of participants includes many Catholic notables. Catholic representatives who have spoken or will speak at the parliament include Cardinal Bernardin, who was to speak on euthanasia, and Helen Alvaré, the U.S. bishops' spokeswoman on pro-life issues, who was scheduled to speak on human population, Tuesday, Aug. 31.

On Sept. 1, the Vatican's official

delegate, Archbishop Francesco Gioia of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, will speak on the "Catholic Church and Other Religions."

That same day, John L. Carr, the U.S. Catholic Conference's secretary for social development and world peace, will speak on "100 years of Catholic Social Teaching."

Other notable Catholics attending the conference included theologian Hans Kung and Bishop Willy Romelus of Haiti.

In addition to the Chicago archdiocese, Catholic institutions are also listed among the event's sponsors. Chicago's Catholic Theological Union and Catholic parishes in Wisconsin and Illinois were listed as sponsoring the event.

In the Diocese of Rochester, Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park, Rochester, promoted the parliament through its bulletin.

One famed Catholic expected to attend the parliament was unable to do so because of ill health. Mother Teresa, recovering from a bout of malaria complicated by a heart condition, had to forego her slated appearance. Cardinal Bernardin asked "all people of faith and goodwill to offer their prayers for Mother Teresa's renewal of health."

The parliament marks the culmination of a yearlong series of interfaith encounters designed to promote collaboration among religious communities worldwide as part of the "Year of Interreligious Understanding and Cooperation," announced Jan. 25 at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City.

Other interfaith activities are slated for later this year in Bangalore, India, and Kyoto, Japan.

Schlumpf Kezmoh is a staff writer for The New World, Chicago's archdiocesan newspaper.

Training now available for hospice volunteers

Training sessions in Bath and Horseheads are available for those interested in becoming volunteers for the Southern Tier Hospice.

Located at 244 W. Water St. in Elmira, the hospice provides services in Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben counties.

Volunteers will be working with the dying and their families. People interested in becoming volunteers must be at least 18 years of age, should not have had a death within their own family in the past year, and must furnish their own transportation.

Twenty-four hours of training, which are conducted in six four-hour segments on Tuesdays and Thursdays, will be required.

Registration deadline is Sept. 6 for the Bath sessions, which will take place during morning hours from Sept. 14-Oct. 1 at the Bath Presbyterian Church, 6 Pulteney Square.

Deadline is Oct. 11 for the Horseheads classes, which will be held in the evening hours from Oct. 19-Nov. 4 at First United Methodist Church on West Broad St.

Call Linda Brabham at 607/734-1570 for information.

N.D. reunion planned

ELMIRA — A reunion weekend for certain alumni of Elmira Notre Dame High School alumni is set for Oct. 15-16, 1993.

The reunion will feature graduates for every five years between 1938-88.

The weekend will get underway with a homecoming football game against Tioga on Friday, Oct. 15. The contest is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. at the high school, 1400 Maple Ave. An alumni reception will follow.

A family Mass is scheduled for 5 p.m. in the high school's auditorium Oct. 16. The Mass will be followed by a social hour and dinner at the Hill-Top Inn, located on Jerusalem Hill Road.

Those alumni who have not already been contacted and are interested in attending the reunion should contact Brenda Teeter at 607/734-2267.

School asks for toys

PITTSFORD — St. Louis School, 11 Rand Place, will offer a second kindergarten this fall. The school needs blocks, small manipulative toys, games, books, play kitchen utensils and dishes.

St. Louis Preschool needs an armoire for clothes; Lincoln Logs, buggy stroller for dolls; small Legos; a camera, an easel with a tray; and a tape recorder. The preschool also needs cabinets for storage.

Anyone wishing to help the schools with these items can call 716/586-5200 from 9 a.m. to noon, or drop them off at the school.

Parish needs books

OWEGO — St. Patrick's Church, 300 Main St., is seeking donations for its annual book sale at the parish's fall festival, Saturday, Sept. 18.

Those who have books to contribute (no magazines will be accepted) may call Sue Christiano at 607/687-1902.

Obituary

Sister Margaret Mary Collins, 69; former teacher at Holy Redeemer

Sister Margaret Mary Collins, SSND, who taught for 14 years at the former Holy Redeemer School in Rochester as Sister Mary Constantia, died on July 1, 1993, in Cambridge, Mass. She was 69.

Sister Margaret Mary was a native of Cambridge. She professed her vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame in 1949 and took the name Sister Mary Constantia, which she kept until assuming her baptismal name in the 1960s.

She began her teaching career in 1949 at Holy Redeemer, where she re-

mained until 1963.

Sister Margaret Mary went on to teach at St. Anselm School in Brooklyn (1963-66) and St. Patrick School in Glen Cove, N.Y. (1983-84). She also served as principal at three schools: St. Clement in Saratoga, N.Y. (1966-72), Mission Grammar School in Roxbury, Mass. (1972-82 and 1988-93), and Madonna School in Fort Lee, N.J. (1984-88).

A Mass of the Resurrection was held for Sister Margaret Mary on July 7, at the Mission Church in Roxbury, Mass. Interment was at Mount Benedict Cemetery in West Roxbury, Mass.

Donations in memory of Sister Margaret Mary Collins can be made to the SSND Development Fund, 345 Belden Hill Road, Wilton, Conn., 06897.

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