

Bishop announces grants

GATES — Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced that 16 pro-life organizations in the Rochester diocese have received a share of this year's \$17,400 in Respect Life Fund grants, which are made possible through the annual Thanks Giving Appeal.

The fund was established in 1983 to support organizations offering services, pastoral counseling and alternative choices to abortion for women facing a problem pregnancy. The fund was formally named Respect Life in 1985.

Grant decisions are made by committees at the regional offices of social ministry throughout the 12-county diocese: Catholic Family Center, Rochester; Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry, Geneva; Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry, Elmira.

The recipients, grant amounts, and the regions in which they are located are as follows:

Monroe and Livingston counties:

Melita House, Rochester: \$3,232.50 — Residential facility providing prenatal care, childbirth classes and counseling. An after-care program provides educational and social skill support to former residents.

Nazareth Academy, Rochester: \$3,232.50 — Pregnant and parenting students are assisted in completing their education, provided with counseling and referral services, and taught parenting skills.

Operation Open Arms of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Rochester: \$1,200 — A 16-week program providing counseling, parenting education and human-services support to young mothers. Academic achievement, civic values and positive parenting are emphasized. Participants are encouraged "to give back to the community that gave to them."

Life's Refuge, Livingston County: \$600 — Helps identify options available to young pregnant and/or parenting women. Information, referral, counseling and support services are also available.

Finger Lakes region:

Birthright of Auburn: \$413.25 — Provides services to women whose pregnancies present a crisis. Provides referrals to community agencies, legal services, adoption services and government programs supporting a pregnant woman's needs.

Birthright of Canandaigua: \$413.25 — Provides free, confidential counseling to pregnant women regardless of age, race, religion, national origin, marital or economic status. Pregnancy testing, maternity and baby clothing is provided, as well as assistance in assessing needs and referral to proper agencies.

Birthright of Ontario: \$413.25 — Provides alternatives to abortion. Counseling and referrals, free pregnancy testing, maternity and baby clothing, transportation and short-term emergency housing are offered.

Birthright of Victor: \$206.62 — New chapter provides alternatives to abortion for women with crisis pregnancies in Victor area.

Faith Haven: \$619.88 — Interdenominational maternity home offers support and counseling for young pregnant women in need.

Maternity Services Program of the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry: \$2,066.25 — Agency serves Wayne, Ontario, Yates, Seneca and Cayuga counties. Access to health care, counseling, housing, food, clothing and other life-support services to pregnant/parenting women are provided.

Southern Tier:

Birthright of Corning: \$800 — Offers alternatives to abortion through counseling, referrals, free pregnancy testing, clothing and other material needs associated with pregnancy and childbirth.

Birthright of Ithaca: \$800 — Services include pregnancy testing, financial aid, labor coaches and referrals to other agencies. Services also provided for children, husbands, boyfriends, and parents of the pregnant women.

Powerful performance



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

One-woman play held at school

Roberta Nobleman performs 'Jullian' at Colgate Rochester Divinity School, 1100 S. Goodman St., Rochester, Oct. 27. The dramatic monologue is based on the life and times of Jullian of Norwich and her written work *Revelations of Divine Love*. The performance was sponsored, in part, by the program in the study of Women and Gender in the Church and Society at Colgate Rochester Divinity School.

Birthright of Owego: \$700 — Free pregnancy testing; a shelter home; adoption referral; legal, medical and social service referral; transportation to doctors; counseling; and education on caring for oneself and one's unborn or newborn child.

Family & Maternity Project of the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry: \$1,000 — Provides material assistance, parenting education and support, information and referral for low-income families with children from

birth to age 3.

Tioga Teen Pregnancy Project: \$832.50 — Outreach program coordinates health, education and counseling services to pregnant/parenting teens and their families in Tioga County.

The final grant recipient, Puzzle Project, which received \$870, provides free post-abortion pastoral counseling and reconciliation in regions throughout the diocese.

Sisters who staffed home for girls leave behind legacy in Rochester

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

IRONDEQUOIT — As she sat and knitted an afghan, Sister Paul Orlando, OLC, recalled how she used to befriend the young girls that stayed at the former Holy Angels Home, 1326 N. Winton Road.

As a cook for the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, which operated the home, Sister Orlando in particular remembered a resentful young woman entering the kitchen one day and asking her what she was doing.

"Would you like to learn how to make cookies?" was all the sister said to the girl, whom she described as marked by "stubborn meanness."

Eventually, that "stubborn meanness" quietly gave way to a more pleasant attitude, Sister Orlando said.

"It made me feel so good that I won her over," she smiled.

Such unassuming victories over the troubles caused by an unsettled family life or anti-social behavior marked the daily environment of Holy Angels Home, according to Sister Mary Helen Garrity, OLC, formerly Mother Mary of the Immaculate Conception Garrity.

"The girls were from broken homes," she said. "When they realized that the sisters were here purposely for them, they changed."

Holy Angels once served girls, ages 10-16, who were delinquent, retarded, neglected or coping with behavioral

problems. The full-time boarding school was well-known throughout the diocese for its outstanding work in turning around troubled young women.

Sister Garrity ran the home from 1954 until 1967, when she was named her order's mother president. As order president, she also subsequently oversaw the home's closing in 1975. According to reports at that time, declining vocations and an ever-fluctuating client population combined with stricter state regulations to create an unpredictable financial situation that forced the home's closing.

Since the home's closing, all of the order's buildings — except for the convent — have been sold to other organizations, including a Messianic Jewish group and a day care center.

Now both sisters, along with Sister Joseph Damiani, OLC, are leaving the convent at 1280 N. Winton Road. The sisters were scheduled to move to the order's residence in Hamburg, N.Y., on Nov. 1, All Saints' Day.

Sister Damiani, who worked as a supervisor at Holy Angels, was on vacation and unavailable to be interviewed by the *Catholic Courier*.

According to Sister Garrity, the convent has been put up for sale. Once it has been sold, the building's remaining residents — Sister Ann Roberta Gargan, OLC, the order's local superior, and Sister Socorro Betancourt, OLC, Hispanic pastoral assistant at

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, 1089 Joseph Ave. — will also vacate.

Sister Orlando, who entered religious life in 1940 and moved to the convent in 1953, noted that moving out feels terrible to her.

"It's something that you lost," she mused. "How do you explain it?"

A religious since 1922, Sister Garrity helped found Holy Angels Home in 1932. She echoed Sister Orlando's feel-

ings but was more philosophical in her approach to the end of an era.

"You've been in a place 62 years — it's hard to be strong," she admitted. "(But) you accept it as God's will."

EDITORS' NOTE: Those wishing to contact the sisters at their new home may write: Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, 3800 Howard Road, Hamburg, N.Y. 14075.



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