

Relocation is underway for STOSM

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ELMIRA — Several address changes are in the works for the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry.

STOSM moved its offices in early October to 1420 College Ave., the former Hardinge Bros. manufacturing headquarters. The offices had previously been located at 160 High St., in the former Ss. Peter and Paul School.

The College Avenue facility houses STOSM's executive administration as well as its finance department, justice and peace department, program development offices, and the Worker Owner Resource Center.

Two of the social ministry office's services, Emergency Services and the Family Health Clinic, are continuing to operate out of the High Street building, but only temporarily. STOSM is currently searching for a permanent location in downtown Elmira.

According to Anthony Barbaro, STOSM's executive director, these moves were precipitated by the decision of Eastside Catholic Parish, which currently leases the Ss. Peter and Paul facility to STOSM, to sell the building. Ss. Peter and Paul Church, one of three parishes comprising the Eastside Catholic Parish cluster, is located across the street from the former school building.

The relocation of Emergency Services and the Family Health Clinic could occur by the new year, Barbaro said. He would like these services to remain centered on Elmira's east side — either in separate buildings or under the same roof. Barbaro requested for those with potential facilities available to contact him at 607/734-9784.

In addition, Barbaro noted, the regional offices' current College Avenue location may be only temporary. STOSM is considering building a new facility just off Route 17 in Big Flats, on the same 12 acres of STOSM-owned property where the new Southern Tier Community Food Bank was erected this past year.

"Over the next year, we'll make a determination on that," said Barbaro. "We may decide to build, or we could also decide to stay in our current offices for the next 20 years."

The Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry serves residents of Chemung, Tioga, Schuyler, Steuben and Tompkins counties.

Sister Marie Pierre Semler, MM, 92; religious artist

Sister Marie Pierre Semler, MM, a noted illustrator, painter, sculptor and woodcarver, and a native of Chili, died of cancer on Monday, Oct. 18, 1993, at the Maryknoll Residential Care Facility. She was 92.

Sister Marie Pierre was born to Anthony Semler and Lena Baum Semler and was baptized Bertha Josephine. She was one of five children.

She attended District Three Elementary School in Chili, and spent four years of night school in art training at Rochester Institute of Technology before entering the Maryknoll order on April 30, 1925. She made her first profession of vows in December, 1927, and her final profession three years

Venerating veterans



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer
Ray Melens, a Vietnam veteran of the third Marine Division, salutes during the playing of taps at a wreath laying ceremony outside the Rochester Community War Memorial on Veterans Day, Nov. 11. An ecumenical service at Christ Church, 141 East Ave., preceded the ceremony.

Sister Rita Kraft, SSpS, age 78

Sister Rita (Rosaire) Kraft, a native of Rochester, died at the Convent of the Holy Spirit, 2600 Waukegan Road, in Techny, Ill., on Thursday, Oct. 21, 1993. She was 78 years old.

The daughter of the late Frank and Stella (Schreiber) Kraft, Sister Rita graduated from DePaul University and later Mundelein College in Chicago.

She joined the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters in 1936. Most of her 40 years of teaching were spent in the African-American schools of Mississippi and Arkansas.

In addition to her years in the South, Sister Rita taught 11 years at St. Boniface in Erie, Pa., and five years at St. John's in Girard, Pa. She also taught at

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schools in Maine and Illinois.

Sister Rita is survived by her stepmother, Teresa Kraft; a sister, Jean Fiser of Rochester; three stepsisters, Frances Steed and Mary Mazzochetti, of Rochester, and Margaret Berman, of Lake Park, Fla.

Sister Rita's cousin, Father William A. Trott, pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Livonia and St. William's in Conesus, celebrated a Mass of the Resurrection on Oct. 22, at the order's convent. Interment took place at St. Mary's Cemetery in Techny.

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later.

Sister Marie Pierre spent her entire career at the Maryknoll Center. Her early works of art included illustrations for *Maryknoll* magazine, paintings and charcoal drawings. She designed and cast the model for the sculptors who carved a stone statue of Mother of the Thorn Crowned, which overlooks the sisters' cemetery at Maryknoll. The statue also marks the grave of Mother Mary Joseph, the order's founder.

A release from her order stated that Sister Marie Pierre had "dedicated

herself completely to praising God through the medium of art."

Other creations of Sister Marie Pierre included the wooden outdoor Stations of the Cross at the center. She continued her work until 1992, when she moved into the residential care facility.

Sister Marie Pierre is survived by her niece, Dorothy (George) Hoysic of Wolcott; and her nephew, Eugene Semler, of Churchville. David Hoysic, her grandnephew and his wife, Mary, were with Sister Marie Pierre at the time of her death.

A Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated on Thursday, Oct. 21, at the center. Interment took place at the order's cemetery.

Festival of Lights planned for Sonnenberg Gardens

CANANDAIGUA — Sonnenberg Gardens, 15 Charlotte St., will host its annual Festival of Lights from Nov. 23 to Jan. 2.

Sponsored by the Cook's Champagne and Canandaigua Wine Company, the festival will run daily from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. The conservatory and greenhouse complex will offer holiday greenery and flowering plants. More than 50,000 watts of power will also illuminate theme figures.

In addition, the 1887 stone mansion will be decorated for Victorian holiday festivities, complete with tree and trains in the great hall. Entertainment will include seasonal music and a display of gingerbread houses as well as horse-drawn wagon and sleigh rides.

Christmas trees, decorated by area students in early December, will be on exhibit before they are donated to area families. Donations of canned goods will also be accepted from visitors at the festival. The Gleaners Kitchen will distribute these canned goods to needy families in the area.

Admission for the festival will be \$4 per person and \$2 for children 12 and under.

For information, call the Sonnenberg Gardens office at 716/394-4922.

Churches in Irondequoit slate Thanksgiving service

IRONDEQUOIT — The 20th-annual Irondequoit Service of Thanksgiving and reception will take place at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 21, at Christ the King Church, 445 Kings Highway South.

All Irondequoit residents are invited to attend and are asked to donate non-perishable food items for the St. Vincent dePaul Society food cupboard. The Sunset House, an Irondequoit hospice, will be the recipient of a collection to be taken during the service.

The service is sponsored by Christ the King and seven other Irondequoit churches: All Saints Episcopal, Irondequoit United Church of Christ, Resurrection Lutheran, St. John's Lutheran, St. Margaret Mary, St. Thomas the Apostle and Seneca United Methodist Ministries.

For information, call 716/342-6243.

Tickets still remain for 'Discover '93' fundraiser

ELMIRA — Tickets still remain for "Discover '93," a raffle in which the proceeds will support Southern Tier Catholic schools.

Tickets at \$100 each are available at the Discover '93 office located in the Holy Family Intermediate School, 301 Demarest Pkwy., Elmira; or by calling 607/734-5432 or 734-4414.

First prize is \$25,000, with one second-place prize of \$10,000, three of \$5,000, 20 of \$1,000, and 20 of \$500. The drawing is set for Tuesday, Nov. 23, and will be broadcast from 7-8 p.m. on Paragon Cable Channel 4 and Corning Newchannel Channel 13.

In addition to the Holy Family Catholic School System, the raffle will benefit Notre Dame High School in Elmira, St. Mary Our Mother School in Horseheads, and All Saints Academy in Corning.