

Memorial fund created in Frank Talomie's honor

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

GENEVA — A memorial fund has been established in memory of State Assemblyman Frank G. Talomie Sr., who died suddenly on Wednesday, Dec. 1, 1993, of complications from a blood clot. He was 72 years old.

The fund will be used to help graduating students from Geneva High School who plan to pursue careers in politics.

According to his widow, Mona Harris Talomie, the popular Republican assemblyman, who was born in Geneva on March 10, 1921, developed an interest in government early in life.

"He was in politics since he was 16-years-old (when he began) driving people to the polls," Mrs. Talomie said.

That interest continued through Mr. Talomie's graduation from Geneva High School in 1939, the couple's marriage on April 3, 1943, his service with the U.S. Air Force as a pilot during World War II, and his involvement with the insurance industry following his discharge.

A parishioner at St. Stephen's Church in Geneva, Mr. Talomie served in the Ontario County Clerk's Office for more than 25 years, including 10 years as the County Clerk from 1970 to 1980. Mrs. Talomie noted that even while serving in the

clerk's office, her husband considered higher office.

"He always had aspirations to go on to help people," she said. "He just loved helping people."

In 1980, Mr. Talomie was elected to the state legislature as a representative of the 129th Assembly District, which includes Yates County, most of Ontario County, and part of Livingston County.

Mrs. Talomie noted that her husband was well-known for his low-key style. His trademark was anise candy, which he kept on his desk and gave out to everyone he met. A basket of the candy was at the wake, and he was buried with a piece of the candy in his hand, she reported.

In addition to his political activities, Mr. Talomie was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council #272; the Sons of Italy Lodge #2397; American Legion Post #396; and V.F.W. Post #2670. He also served as an usher at St. Stephen's for many years.

Monsignor Gerard Krieg, St. Stephen's pastor, said Mr. Talomie was known for helping people cut through bureaucracy.

The priest said that when one of Mr. Talomie's childhood friends, Maryknoll missionary Father Francis Taney, wrote that he needed a new car for his work in the Philippines, Mr. Talomie arranged for the Sons of Italy to buy and ship one to the priest.

"He was a man of tremendous compassion, always an advocate for the little person," Monsignor Krieg said.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark celebrated a Mass of Christian Burial for Mr. Talomie at St. Stephen's Church. Monsignor Krieg assisted.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Talomie is survived by one son, Frank Talomie Jr., of

Rochester; one daughter, Patricia Talomie; one brother, Patrick Talomie, of Geneva; four sisters, Rose Lagana, Margaret Torchinelli and Bernice Snyder, and Florence Elliott, of Oregon; four grandchildren; and one great grandchild.

Contributions to the Frank G. Talomie Sr. Memorial Fund may be sent to 110 West St., Geneva, N.Y., 14456.

Spreading kindness



The New Life Fellowship Church, 362 Columbia Ave., Rochester, hosted a holiday dinner for the needy on Dec. 11. (Above) James Robinson of Rochester gets a helping of turkey from volunteers. Robinson said "the dinner is not just about the food, but about the good spirit and kindness." (At right) DeSean Howard stays close to his mother, Anita, as he bites into an apple given to him at the door. The church also holds a similar outreach dinner at Easter.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Sister Rita Sullivan, RSM, at 72; served at St. Augustine's Parish

Sister Rita Sullivan, RSM, died on Monday, Nov. 15, 1993, at Scripps Memorial Hospital in La Jolla, Calif., following complications from a respiratory infection. She was 72.

Sister Rita had been working in the San Diego area since 1986. She moved to California for health reasons.

Born in Hilton on April 30, 1921, she graduated from Brockport Central School in 1938. She had worked for Lincoln Alliance Bank, Rochester Telephone Corporation, Bausch and Lomb Corporation, and Eastman Kodak Company prior to becoming a woman religious.

The former Sister Mary Alacogue entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1959 at the age of 38. She professed her final vows in 1967.

Sister Rita was a receptionist and general office worker at Our Lady of Mercy High School, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester, from 1959-66. She later served as a theology teacher and guidance counselor at Notre Dame High School, 1400 Maple Ave., Elmira.

After earning her degree in sociology from St. John Fisher College in Pittsford in 1973, Sister Rita briefly served as a tutor and counselor in the Upward Bound Pro-

OBITUARY

gram for disadvantaged young adults at Rochester Institute of Technology/University of Rochester.

In 1974, Sister Rita became the pastoral associate at St. Augustine's Church, 410 Chili Ave., where she helped found Matt Talbot Ministries — a drug and alcohol program originally located at the parish, now located in Blessed Sacrament Parish. She was also one of the original members the Mercy Center With the Aging and served on the Diocesan Pastoral Council. In addition, she was a member of Southwest Ecumenical Ministries of Rochester, the Rochester Interfaith Jail Ministries, and the National Social Science Honor Society.

Sister Rita is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Mary Louise and Walter Guerinet of San Diego; several nieces and nephews; and members of the Sisters of Mercy.

Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Rita was celebrated on Friday, Nov. 19, at the Sisters of Mercy Motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road. Interment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Sr. Stella Regina Walsh, SSJ; served 63 years

Sister Stella Regina Welch, who served as a Sister of St. Joseph in the Rochester diocese for 63 years, died on Saturday, Nov. 20, 1993.

Sister Stella Regina, a Rochester native, entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Blessed Sacrament Parish in 1930. After graduating from Nazareth Academy and Nazareth College, she obtained her master's degree from Catholic University of America.

She taught from 1932-35 at Holy Rosary School in Rochester and from 1935-48 at St. Monica School in Rochester. Sister Stella Regina then served as principal of Our Lady of Lourdes School in Rochester from 1948-54; as guidance counselor at St. Agnes School in Rochester from 1954-56; as principal of Immaculate Conception School in Ithaca from 1956-57; and as vice-principal at Mt. Carmel High School in

OBITUARY

Auburn from 1957-63.

In 1963 she began a long stint at Nazareth College, first as director of admissions and later as dean of freshmen and dean of foreign students.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Nov. 23, at the SSJ motherhouse in Pittsford. The principal celebrant was Monsignor William Shannon, with Fathers John Hayes, Joseph Trovato, CSB, John O'Connor, John Reddington, Thomas Erdle, Matthew Temple, O Carm., and Robert Donovan assisting.

Sister Stella Regina is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Bernadette and Frederick Zaunick; sister and brother-in-law, Rosemary and Richard Klee; nieces and nephews, and the entire community of Sisters of St. Joseph.

Father Bernard C. Newcomb, 84

OBITUARY

Father Bernard C. Newcomb, who founded St. Cecilia's Parish in Rochester and served as its pastor for 30 years, died in Auburn on Sunday, Dec. 5, 1993, at the home of his sister, Joanne Livingston, following a long illness. He was 84 years old.

An Auburn native, Father Newcomb was born on Dec. 13, 1908. He attended Auburn's St. Aloysius School, Auburn High School, and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries in Rochester.

Then-Archbishop Edward Mooney ordained him a priest on June 9, 1934. Father Newcomb served as assistant pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Corning, from 1934 to 40. He served as assistant pastor of St. Francis of Assisi in Auburn from 1940 to 1943, when he became a U.S. Army Air Force chaplain. He eventually rose to the rank of major.

After the war, Father Newcomb returned to St. Francis of Assisi Parish from 1946 to 1949.

On June 29, 1949, Father Newcomb was named founding pastor of St. Cecilia's Parish. He supervised construction of the parish church, school, convent and rectory. The rectory was designed by his nephew, Father Bernard Casper.

Father Newcomb retired on Sept. 12, 1979, but remained at St. Cecilia's as pastor emeritus. He also served for a decade as judge with the appeal tribunal of the New York archdiocese.

Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, who gave the homily at Father Newcomb's Mass of Christian Burial on Dec. 10, said that few people were aware that the late priest had served as a tribunal judge after he "retired." That was typical of Father Newcomb, Bishop Hickey said.

"He was a very humble, down-to-earth guy," Bishop Hickey said, adding that Father Newcomb thought nothing of pitching in to help with parish maintenance, and on occasion could even be seen sweeping the church parking lot.

Bishop Joseph L. Hogan celebrated a Mass of Christ the High Priest for Father Newcomb at St. Cecilia's on Dec. 9. Bishop Matthew H. Clark celebrated a Mass of Christian Burial at the church on Dec. 10. Interment was in St. Joseph's Cemetery in Fleming.

In addition to his sister and nephew, Father Newcomb is survived by two brothers, Francis A. Newcomb, of Auburn, and retired Army Col. Fidelis Newcomb, of San Antonio, Texas; 21 other nieces and nephews; and several great nieces, great nephews and cousins.

Contributions in Father Newcomb's memory may be mailed to the St. Cecilia's Building Fund, 2732 Culver Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14622.

— Lee Strong