

Deadline nearing for conference in D.C.

Catechetical leaders and youth ministers have until Feb. 1 to reserve a seat on a diocesan-sponsored bus going to a Feb. 24-27 catechetical conference in Washington, D.C.

Titled "Ancient Journey: New Pathways, Catechesis in the Life of the Church," the conference will feature addresses by such individuals as Father Avery Dulles, SJ, Michael Carotta, James DeBoy, Robert McCarty and Marie Murphy. The keynote speaker will be Thomas Groome.

The bus is scheduled to leave the Pastoral Center at 8 a.m. Feb. 24. The bus will stop to pick up passengers at St. Dominic's Parish in Shortsville before leaving at 9 a.m. It will also stop at Immaculate Conception Parish in Painted Post and disembark at 11 a.m..

Cost is \$88. At least 30 people must sign up for the bus to be chartered.

For information, contact Mary Britton in the diocesan Department of Evangelization and Catechesis at 716/328-3210, ext. 244.

New effort to provide free eye examinations

ROCHESTER — The Rochester Society of the New York State Optometric Association is taking part in a program to offer free eye examinations to low-income uninsured workers and their families.

Known as VISION USA, the program is part of a nationwide effort begun by the American Optometric Association.

The program has the following eligibility requirements: one member of the family must be employed; the family must not be covered by government or private health-care insurance; the individuals receiving examinations must not have had an exam within the past year; and the household income level must meet income guidelines based on household size.

To find out if you meet these requirements, call 1-800-766-4466 by Jan. 31. Eligible individuals and families will then be put in contact with area optometrists taking part in the program.

CFC accepting names for sex abuse group

ROCHESTER — Catholic Family Center is accepting referrals to join a group of adult women who have experienced childhood sexual abuse.

The group will begin a 12-week program in early February, meeting from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at the Catholic Family Center office, located on the seventh floor of the Sibley Tower Building, 25 Franklin St.

For details, call 716/262-7115.

More drivers sought for Tier Meals on Wheels

Chemung County's Meals on Wheels program is in need of volunteer drivers.

Those who are interested in helping deliver meals should call Mary Hungerford at 607/734-9535 or Josephine Podocek at 796-0145.

Fr. McNamara to publish new diocesan 'necrology'

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — Father Robert F. McNamara, archivist for the Diocese of Rochester, is scheduled to publish his sixth book, *Ambassadors for Christ*, on Feb. 1, 1994.

The book is a "necrology," a compilation of the death dates of the approximately 1,300 bishops, priests and permanent deacons who served in the Diocese of Rochester between 1818 — the first date of record in which priests from the Diocese of New York (of which Rochester was a part at the time) were sent to the 12 counties now constituting the Rochester diocese — to 1993.

In addition to diocesan priests, bishops and permanent deacons, Father McNamara has included priests from religious orders who served locally and individuals who left the priesthood.

The book also contains dates of birth, acceptance into religious orders and ordination.

Father McNamara said the book is intended as a devotional and an historical document.

"Priests who are about to celebrate Mass pray for those who died that day," Father McNamara explained.

Until his book, Father McNamara continued, Rochester priests have had to rely on a compilation published by the Paulist Press. But that listing includes

not only the Catholic clergy of Rochester, but also of the dioceses of Buffalo, Syracuse and Ogdensburg. And it did not include all of the priests who served in the Rochester diocese.

With the publication of his book, Father McNamara noted, priests in Rochester may focus their prayers on the deceased priests, bishops and permanent deacons who served here.

Father McNamara has been compiling the book for several decades. In so doing, he has had to search not only diocesan records, but also those of religious orders who have assigned priests to this area.

Among the problems he encountered were finding the death dates of European priests who served in the diocese, then returned to Europe, and the death dates of priests who left the priesthood and the diocese. In some cases, he acknowledged, he was unable to find the necessary information.

"It's a dickens of a thing to keep a list of priests like this," Father McNamara said. "It's a very tedious job, because I had to review and review it. It's like editing a telephone book."

EDITORS' NOTE: *Ambassadors for Christ will be available from the Archives of the Diocese of Rochester, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, 716-328-3210. Cost is \$9.75 per book, plus \$1.50 for postage and handling.*

Obituaries

Sr. Mary Bilhildis Boss, SSND

Sister Mary Bilhildis Boss, SSND, a Rochester native who taught at Rochester's Holy Family School and lived for many years at Holy Ghost Convent in Rochester, died Wednesday, Jan. 12, 1994, at the School Sisters of Notre Dame's Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton, Conn. She was 95.

Born Sept. 29, 1898, Sister Bilhildis attended Holy Family Parish before entering the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She professed her final vows with the congregation Aug. 28, 1922.

Sr. Maria Sciarabba, SSJ; joined order as a widow

PITTSFORD — Sister Maria Sciarabba, SSJ, who became a Sister of St. Joseph after being widowed, died on Friday, Jan. 7, 1994, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, 4095 East Ave.

The mother of two children, Sister Maria entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1966. She was married 21 years to her late husband, Henry Sciarabba, who died in 1959.

As a Sister of St. Joseph, Sister Maria served as a home-school coordinator at Corpus Christi School and then became treasurer and bookkeeper at the sisters' convent infirmary.

In addition to her accounting skills, Sister Maria was noted for her needlepoint work. She also enjoyed taking part in holiday celebrations with her family, preparing cookies and other treats.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Maria was celebrated in the SSJ motherhouse chapel on Jan. 10.

Sister Maria is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Henry and Diane Sciarabba of Rochester; daughter, Andrea Del Conte of New York City; grandsons, John Henry and Jason Daniel Sciarabba; sisters and brothers-in-law, Anne and Stephen Coco and Evelyn and Fred Lipa; nieces and nephews; and the community of Sisters of St. Joseph.

Over the years Sister Bilhildis served as a teacher in various cities in the states of New York, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. She also served as a nurse at Villa Maria in Glen Arm, Md., from 1931-50. Her last assignment was as a teacher at Holy Family School from 1965-69.

Sister Bilhildis retired in 1970, living at the Holy Ghost Convent in Rochester until 1988, when she moved to the congregation's motherhouse in Wilton, Conn.

Mass of the Resurrection for Sister Bilhildis was celebrated Jan. 14, at the motherhouse chapel in Wilton. Interment was at St. Mary's Cemetery in Bethel, Conn.

Donations in memory of Sister Bilhildis may be made to the SSND Development Fund, 345 Belden Road, Wilton, Conn. 06897.

Community center will host recreation events

ROCHESTER — Several adult recreation events have been scheduled over the next several weeks at the City of Rochester's Edgerton Community Center, 41 Backus St.

Classes in ceramics, self-defense, photographic arts and dancing are being offered. In addition, the Stardust Ballroom Series is presenting dance concerts featuring various area band leaders on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Along with the Tuesday concerts, a special "President's Ball," with Joe Cady and his Orchestra, will take place on Friday, Feb. 25, from 8-11 p.m.

For details on any of these events, call 716/428-6769 after 3 p.m. weekdays.

RCOA program seeks more ombudsmen

ROCHESTER — Adult volunteers are needed for the Regional Council on Aging's long-term care ombudsman program.

Recruitment is currently underway for annual training classes, which begin in early March. Participants will make weekly visits to long-term care facilities in Monroe County, serving as advocates for these residents.

Those people who are over 21, and sensitive to the needs of the institutionalized elderly, should call Rose Marie Fagan at 716/454-3224 for details about the ombudsman program.

Arc of Monroe County requests volunteer help

ROCHESTER — The Arc of Monroe County — formerly the Association for Retarded Citizens — needs volunteers to assist with various programs.

Assistants are being sought for sewing and mending programs. In addition, the Arc requests volunteers to assist with a weekly exercise program.

Those interested in helping out should call Diane Bailey at 716/325-8025.

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