

Program will focus on marginalized Catholics

FAIRPORT — Father Joseph M. Champlin, a noted author from Syracuse, will be the principal speaker at a day-long workshop concerning marginalized Catholics.

The workshop will take place on Saturday, March 12, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at St. John of Rochester School, 18 Wickford Way.

Father Champlin is author of the book "The Marginalized Catholic: Challenge, Don't Crush."

The fee is \$15 per person, or \$12.50 per person five or more members of a parish register. The fee includes lunch and hospitality.

Deadline to register is Tuesday, March 1. To register, call Mary Ellen FitzGibbons of the diocesan Department of Evangelization and Catechesis at 716/328-3210.

Bobby Fisher scheduled to offer music workshop

GATES — Bobby Fisher, a noted liturgical composer, performer and teacher, is scheduled to perform concerts and lead a music workshop March 11 and 12 at St. Helen's Church, 310 Hinchey Road.

Fisher will perform a concert March 11 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will be preceded by a presentation of the "Living Stations of the Cross" beginning at 7 p.m.

On March 12, Fisher will conduct a workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Cost for the concert is \$8 per person, or \$5 per person for groups of three or more.

The workshop costs \$30 per person. A combined price for both concert and workshop is \$35. Box lunches will be provided at the workshop.

For information about the concert and/or workshop, contact Jewell Ministries, P.O. Box 8065, Webster, N.Y. 14580, or call 716/254-2479.

Ithaca parish will host two-day retreat in March

ITHACA — St. Catherine of Siena Church, 302 St. Catherine Circle, is offering a two-day renewal and reconciliation retreat, "Wake the Seed God Planted with Prayer," on Friday and Saturday, March 4-5.

Father Martin Boler, OSB, prior at Mt. Saviour Monastery in Pine City, is scheduled to speak. The retreat will also consist of singing, reflection and prayer.

There is no charge. For details, call 607/257-2493.

Ontario parish slates four-day Lenten mission

ONTARIO — St. Mary's of the Lake Parish, 5823 Walworth Road, has scheduled a Lenten mission, Feb. 27 to March 3, focusing on the topic, "Handing on the Faith."

Father Arthur Wendell of Canandaigua's Notre Dame retreat House and Father James McDonald of St. Gregory's Parish in North East, Pa., are scheduled to be the presenters.

The main service will be each at 7:30 p.m. each day of the mission.

For more information, contact the parish at 315/524-2611.

Auburn Knights schedule March 2 prayer service

AUBURN — Knights of Columbus Council 10709, with support from Councils 207 and 10771, has scheduled a prayer service to honor the Holy Family. The service will take place at 7 p.m. March 2 at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 185 Clark St. The service is part of the international Holy Family Prayer Hour.



Volunteer Cliff Brooks uses a rake to clean out debris in the Hudson Avenue building which will serve as the new location for the House of Mercy. S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

House of Mercy to move by June

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — As he prepared to take a lunch break, Charles Earley surveyed the ratty clothes, broken glass, and torn garbage bags strewn across the spacious first floor of a two-story building once home to drug-users.

"This is like paradise compared to earlier," he said with a smile.

Along with several other volunteers on Monday, Feb. 21, Earley spent the day cleaning out the Hudson Avenue building which will serve as the new location of the House of Mercy.

Volunteers from the House of Mercy, 102 Central Park, hauled out huge amounts of trash and debris from the building, recently acquired by the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester. Earley said he hoped the job would be finished within two days.

Once owned by the Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation, the building is approximately twice as large as the single-

family dwelling where the House of Mercy is currently located. The Hudson Avenue building should be ready for occupation by the outreach center sometime before or by June, remarked staff member Sister Rita Lewis, RSM.

"We'll just have more space to work in," she said of the new location as she spoke in her office. "We're just so cramped in here."

Sister Lewis noted that the House of Mercy has been looking for a new location for some time. A more affluent population is moving into the neighborhood near the house, and the sister noted that the new center will better serve the population that she and the staff are trying to reach.

The Sisters of Mercy acquired the building which was owned by the federal government, and donated through the city, according to Sister Ann Miller, RSM, president of the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester. She noted that the order is still in the process of obtaining the necessary permits to begin reconstruction

of the structure.

The building's acquisition follows the apparent resolution of an eviction dispute with the City of Rochester over the current Central Park site.

The city acquired the building last fall because the previous owner had failed to pay taxes. The city then began eviction proceedings against the House of Mercy, citing a number of code violations, Sister Miller said. However, a city judge has told the sisters that the outreach center may remain at its current location until June, as long as the violations are addressed within the next two weeks, she explained.

Meanwhile, in other House of Mercy news, the center's organizing project was one of several organizations planning to protest against a proposal to fingerprint welfare recipients. The groups were scheduled to hold a noontime rally at the Monroe County Legislative Building, 39 W. Main St., on Tuesday, Feb. 22. The *Catholic Courier* will report further developments next week.

State legislators to meet policy committee

BUSHNELLS BASIN — State legislators from the Finger Lakes region and Monroe and Livingston counties are slated to meet with representatives of the diocesan Public Policy Committee on Friday, Feb. 25, for a briefing on diocesan legislative priorities.

The breakfast meeting will take place at 8:30 a.m. in the Brookwood Inn, 800 Pittsford-Victor Road.

Among the priorities to be discussed are promoting legislative initiatives consistent with the consistent ethic of life in an effort to reduce the number of abortions; reduce family and community violence and provide support to victims; and reform welfare "to promote the value of work and family" while not reducing "assistance to those not capable of working."

In its statement, the diocese also reiterated its long-held opposition to the death penalty and noted that the 1993 General Synod identified promotion of the consistent-life ethic as a diocesan priority.

The public policy committee is chaired by Father Michael J. Bausch, pastor of St. Helen's Church in Gates. Its

members include representatives of diocesan parishes, hospitals, schools, religious orders, lay organizations and social agencies. The committee is staffed by Pastoral Center employees.

The committee also listed three other areas to discuss with the legislators, with the diocese supporting the following measures:

Education: the enactment of school vouchers and tax credits for non-public school parents; funding for learning technology in all state schools; tax credits for private donors to programs serving high-risk students; enhanced funding for school transportation.

Economic Security: Support for rais-

ing the minimum wage to \$6 per hour; increasing various income-assistance program levels so that the benefits equal the official poverty level; support for "microenterprise initiatives which empower low income individuals and families;" reform of labor laws affecting farmworkers and farmworker's housing assistance.

Healthcare: additional funding for a maternity and early childhood foundation; creation of a compensation fund for impaired infants, and of "family support committees" for women and children; support for the rebasing of nursing home Medicaid rates; and increased funding for AIDS prevention and treatment.

Elmira parish will host Divine Mercy mission in March

ELMIRA — A "Divine Mercy" Mission will take place March 4-6 at St. Casimir Church. The mission will feature Father Joseph Roesch, rector of the Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass., and Maureen and Robert Digan.

Maureen Digan has spoken throughout the world on the miracle she says enabled her to recover from an incur-

able disease. Her husband is a speaker on the topic, "Urgent and Prophetic Message of Divine Mercy."

Registration deadline is March 1. There is no charge, although free-will offerings will be accepted.

Register by writing to St. Casimir Church, 1004 Davis St., Elmira, 14901 or by calling 607/734-1622.