

Mission to close in June; six clusters to be created

GROVELAND STATION — One hundred years after its founding, Holy Name Church — a mission of Nunda's Holy Angels Parish — will close its doors at the end of June.

"Holy Name Parish is a small parish community with no religious education and few baptisms, marriages, or funerals," said a March 16 statement issued by Father Peter Clifford, diocesan director of Parish Support Ministries. "Most of the parish activity is centered around fundraising to stay afloat."

Located on Route 63, Holy Name Church became a mission church of Holy Angels in 1930 when Bishop John Francis O'Hern detached Holy Angels from St. Patrick's, Mount Morris.

In an interesting twist of fate, Holy Angels will now be clustered with St. Patrick's at the end of June. Clustered parishes share a common pastor and staff.

Father Daniel Condon, pastor of St. Patrick's, will lead the new cluster. Father Joseph Sasso, pastor of Holy Angels/Holy Name since 1978, will be re-assigned.

Holy Name parishioners will be welcome at parishes in Mount Morris, Geneseo or Dansville. The church's records will be housed at St. Patrick's.

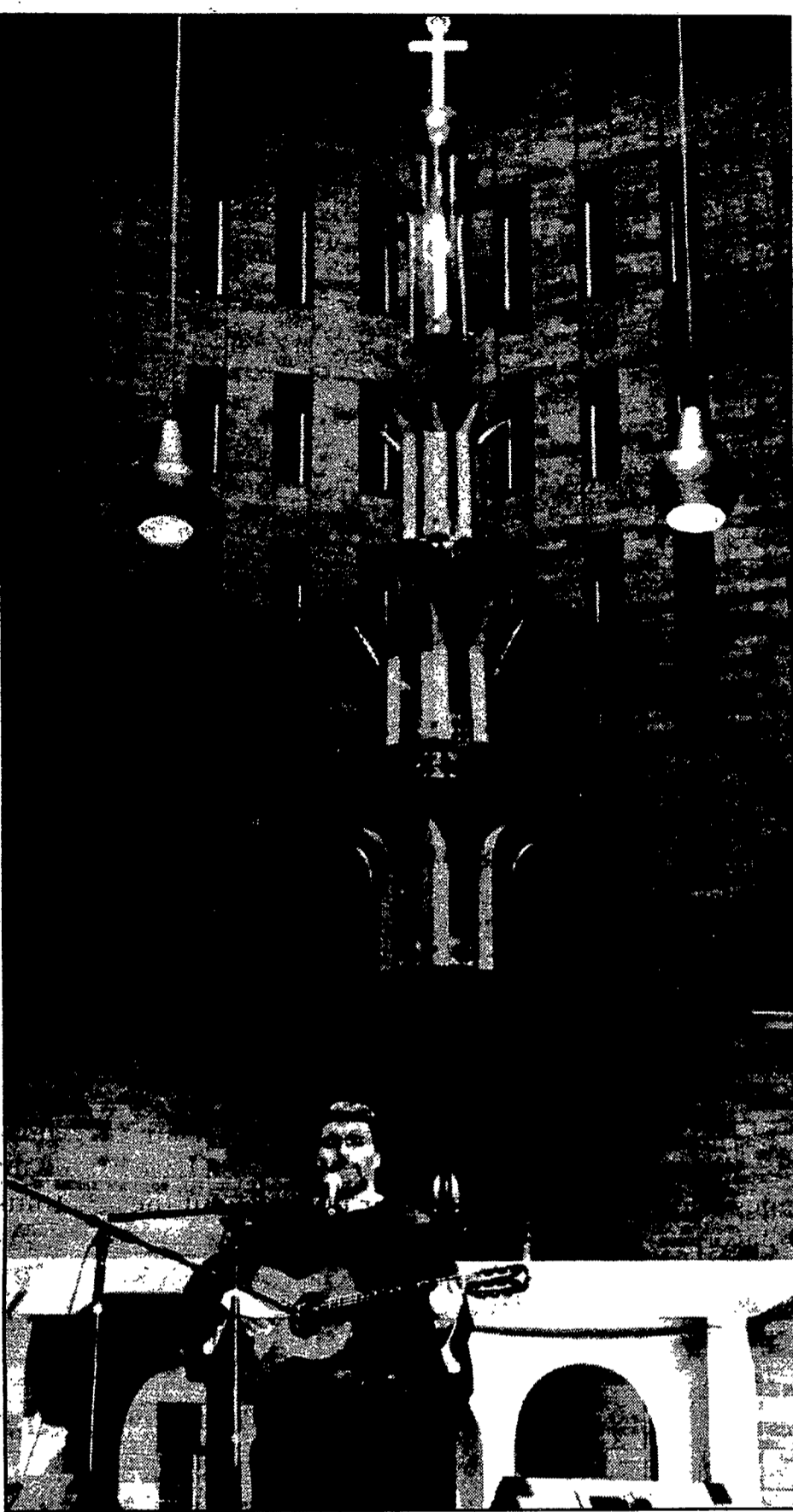
Parishioners and staff are currently exploring how Holy Name's building can be used by the Groveland community, Father Clifford said.

St. Patrick's/Holy Angels is one of six new clusters to be established this June. The others are:

- Holy Apostles and St. Anthony; and St. Francis and St. Peter and Paul, all in Rochester.
- St. Casimir, Elmira and St. Charles Borromeo, Elmira Heights.
- St. Januarius, Naples, and St. Patrick, Prattsburg.
- St. James, Trumansburg, and St. Francis, Interlaken.

In addition, St. Anthony's and St. Patrick's in Elmira have agreed to cooperate on efforts leading to clustering sometime in the next few years, Father Clifford said.

— Rob Cullivan



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Powerful performance

John Michael Talbot performed to a full house at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 3003 Dewey Ave., Rochester, on March 17. Talbot, who has more than 25 recordings to his credit, is currently on an 18-city U.S. tour. His concerts benefit Mercy Corps International, an organization that supports the poor.

Bishop leads health care delegation to Washington

Members offer position paper

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

Bishop Matthew H. Clark March 22 led a diocesan delegation to Washington, D.C. to present a position statement on federal health care reform to Rochester-area congressional representatives or their staffs.

Developed by the Diocesan Public Policy Committee, the statement presents the Catholic position on health care reform and addresses a number of concerns and recommendations, according to Jack Balinsky, director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester, Inc.

The three main priorities, Balinsky

said, are: universal access to health care, especially in rural and inner-city areas; cost restraints on health care; and respect for life, encompassing such issues as abortion and euthanasia, and permitting a conscience clause for Catholic physicians and health-care organizations.

In addition to Bishop Clark and Balinsky, the delegation included representatives of the Catholic Family Center and Catholic health care providers in the diocese. They were joined by representatives from the United States Catholic Conference, Catholic Charities USA and the Catholic Health Association.

Balinsky said the trip and the position statement are parts of the diocese's overall plan for addressing the health care issue.

Developed by the Public Policy Committee at its Sept. 14 meeting last year, that plan included a series of health care town-meetings last November and December. Those meetings helped to es-

tablish priorities for the policy statement. The plan also involved participation in Project Life Sunday Jan. 22-23, 1994, during which the diocese distributed 20,000 postcards to parishes for congressional representatives asking that abortion not be included in the health care plan, and a letter-writing campaign on the issue, slated to take place in parishes at some point in May.

Father Michael J. Bausch, chairman of the Public Policy Committee, noted that in developing and presenting the statement, the diocese was acting based on Catholic social teachings.

"Our diocesan church has a very timely responsibility to speak out for the underserved, uninsured, unborn and undocumented," Father Bausch said. "Comprehensive health care reform that protects the life and dignity of all is certainly in the framework of a consistent life ethic, a top priority that emerged from the three-year diocesan synod

CHD grants available for poverty-related projects

Organizations working to alleviate domestic poverty are encouraged to apply for a 1994 "seed money" grant from the Campaign for Human Development.

Proposals are sought for projects — organized and governed by low-income people — which strive for economic and social improvement in their communities. The projects should address the basic causes of poverty and work to change unjust social structures.

To be considered for funding, applications must be submitted by May 2, 1994. Proposals are reviewed regionally.

Applications may be obtained by contacting the following people:

Monroe and Livingston counties — Brian Kane, Catholic Family Center, 25 Franklin St., Rochester, 14604; call 716/262-7021.

Steuben, Schuyler, Chemung, Tompkins and Tioga counties — Kathy Dubel, Southern Tier Social Ministry, 1420 College Ave., Elmira, 14901; call 607/734-9784.

Yates, Ontario, Wayne, Seneca and Cayuga counties — Giovina Caroscio, Finger Lakes Social Ministry, 110 Exchange St., Geneva, 14456; call 315/789-2686.

The Campaign for Human Development was established in 1970 by the U.S. Catholic bishops as an education-action program to combat domestic poverty. Funds are generated through annual collections in Catholic parishes. This year's diocesan collection is scheduled for the weekend of April 16-17.

Tier hospice is seeking volunteers and donations

ELMIRA — InnCare, a new non-profit organization for hospice patients sponsored by the Southern Tier Hospice, is in need of volunteers.

There is currently one house, located at 609 Hart St., operated by InnCare. Volunteers' duties would include visiting residents, preparing food, doing laundry, shopping, cleaning, serving meals and helping to feed residents if necessary. The terminally ill patients served by InnCare either have no home and/or do not have a primary caregiver.

Those interested in volunteering should contact the Southern Tier Hospice at 607/734-1570.

In related news, the hospice recently announced that it surpassed its 1993 fundraising goal by nearly 10 percent.

The agency, which had set a goal of \$40,000 for its "Friends of Hospice" campaign, collected \$43,619.

New donations should be sent to the agency at 244 W. Water St., Elmira, 14901.

process."

Balinsky noted that in taking the initiative to address the health care issue, the Rochester diocese was among the first dioceses in the nation to do so.

"Both the USCC and the Catholic Health Association said we are the first diocese that is doing this kind of proactive advocacy on the health care issue," Balinsky said.

In addition to Bishop Clark and Balinsky, the delegation included Sister Marie Castagnaro, SSJ, president and chief executive officer of St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira; Brian Kane, director of the Catholic Family Center's Department of Social Policy and Research; Sister Rene McNiff, RSM, president of Mercy System of the Southern Tier; Father John M. Mulligan, vicar general of the diocese; Carolyn Portanova, executive director of the Catholic Family Center; and Stewart Putnam, chief operating officer of St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester.