

Quilt's visit benefits diocese's AIDS efforts

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER—Prior to opening ceremonies for the display of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt at the University of Rochester, Father Edward L. Palumbos recalled the past.

"I came because I've buried too many people from AIDS," remarked the pastor of St. Charles Borromeo, 3003 Dewey Ave. "I'm here to pay tribute to them."

Father Palumbos was among the scores of people who gathered in the university's field house April 8 to view a portion of the quilt, an international memorial to the half million people who have died from AIDS. The quilt was displayed at the field house from April 8-10.

The quilt, which would cover the length of 11 football fields if displayed with no space between its panels, was begun in June, 1987, by Cleve Jones. A resident of San Francisco, Jones wanted the nation to understand the loss that he and his friends experienced over the death of their friends and loved ones, according to information from the Names Project.

People in other cities affected by the AIDS epidemic quickly responded to Jones' idea, and since October, 1987, the quilt has been displayed 1,000 times all over the country. Through donations solicited at the displays, more than \$1.5 million has been raised for AIDS organizations around the country.

In addition to other groups, three organizations affiliated with the diocese benefited from the quilt's visit to the Rochester area — Catholic Charities Community & Residential Services; Isaiah House, 71 Prince St., an outreach program of Corpus Christi Parish; and Elisha House, owned by St. Augustine's Parish, which receives funding from St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. Deacon Lynne McNulty, who serves at St. Stephen's, directs the house.

Along with her husband Brian, a Catholic deacon at St. Augustine's Church, Deacon Lynne McNulty served as a pastoral counselor at the Friday quilt display.

Having cared for many Elisha House residents who have died from AIDS, Lynne noted that this was her third time viewing the quilt, and each viewing has increased her depth of feeling.

"For me, the first time it was here I was overwhelmed by the size," she



Lauren McFalls/Photo intern

A portion of the AIDS quilt was displayed at the University of Rochester's field house April 8-10. The quilt is an international memorial to the half million people who have died of AIDS. (Bottom left) Della DiLorenzo is helped by friends as she places a flower on a section of the quilt dedicated to the memory of her son, who died of AIDS in 1992. Carl Leban comforts DiLorenzo (right).



mused. "The second time, it was closer. There were squares from people I knew."

Indeed, two late residents of the house — Sam Source and Jason Pavone — were among the panels in the quilt, Lynne said.

The McNultys are now working with friends of Brad Fullager to make a panel that will become part of the quilt. Fullager, well-known in Rochester for his

theatrical work, lived at Elisha House for five weeks before he died last September, according to his friends Deborah Haber and Jack Watkins.

"Brad had asked us to have a panel in the quilt," Haber remarked.

Deacon Brian McNulty noted that remembering such people as Fullager was the quilt's greatest purpose.

"It's not just a disease," he said. "It's

people. That's the value."

EDITORS' NOTE — The McNultys pointed out that the National Episcopal AIDS Coalition has developed a quilt-display program specifically for Episcopal parishes. Catholic parishes wishing to learn more about how the program works should write: NEAC, Suite 509, 2025 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, D.C., 20006-1813.

Diocese restores Catholic Charities' name

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — Effective April 13, diocesan Social Ministry returned to its legal title, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester, Inc.

In conjunction with the diocesan change, the Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry, 160 High St., has changed its name to Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier; and the Finger Lakes Office of Social Ministry, 110 Exchange St., has become Finger Lakes Social Ministry.

Catholic Family Center is keeping its name the same.

Catholic Charities first became diocesan Social Ministry during restructuring of the Pastoral Office in the late 1970s.

In a letter distributed through the diocese's centralized mail, Jack Balinsky, Catholic Charities' director, explained that the decision was prompted by the Synod process, during which confusion surfaced about the "structures and services of Social Ministry."

Balinsky noted that the name change offers a number of advantages, including

DIocese OF ROCHESTER Catholic Charities

making the agency's "Catholic" identity more apparent. The change also more clearly links the diocesan agency to Catholic Charities USA, which, according to Balinsky, is "the largest network of voluntary human-services providers in the country."

In addition to allowing the diocese to benefit from the national organization's public-relations efforts, the name change should help boost the diocese's own advocacy efforts because of strengthened ties to other network members, Balinsky said. He added that hopefully the diocese will have an easier time in terms of raising money because of Catholic Charities' nationwide reputation.

Anthony Barbaro, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier, noted that the Tier agency had been considering a name change even before the diocese announced its plan.

"We had been questioning whether Southern Tier Office of Social Ministry

was as effective or as helpful in communicating what the agency is about," Barbaro explained.

Barbaro said the process of changing the name will take place over the coming months.

Finger Lakes Social Ministry's board of directors had considered changing that agency's name to some variation of Catholic Charities, but opted not to do so, noted executive director Giovina Carosco.

"We felt we had enough name recognition that people would know us by (Finger Lakes Social Ministry)," Carosco said.

In addition, board members decided that "social ministry" better describes the agency's advocacy activities, and helps to link the regional office by name to the social ministry committees in parishes, Carosco explained.

She noted, however, that Finger Lakes Social Ministry describes itself as a "regional office of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester, Inc." on its releases and on its stationary to clearly show the regional agency's ties to the diocesan and national organizations.

Elmira hospital airs TV health-care show

ELMIRA — St. Joseph's Hospital is seeking community input for a weekly 30-minute educational television show.

Participants are asked to submit questions on health-care issues they would like to learn more about.

Those with suggestions or questions may write to the St. Joseph's Community Relations Department, 555 E. Market St., Elmira, N.Y. 14902; or call 607/737-7810.

Cancer Society offers weekly coping sessions

ELMIRA — "I Can Cope," an educational and support program for cancer patients and their families, is being offered by the Chemung County Unit of the American Cancer Society.

The six-week program begins April 14 and will be held each Thursday evening from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the ACS building, 627 W. Church St. Call 607/734-1552 for details.