

Father Teuschel 'guarded' after serious car accident

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

DANSVILLE — As the *Catholic Courier* went to press Tuesday, April 12, Father Andrew W. Teuschel, who was involved in a serious car accident on April 7, was listed in "guarded" condition at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester.

The pastor of St. Mary's Church in Dansville was driving south on Route 256 to Dansville from Lima when he apparently lost control of his vehicle due to snow and slush covering the road. The driver's side of Father Teuschel's car then hit the front end of a northbound vehicle driven by James Insley, 25, also of Dansville, according to the accident report made by the Livingston County sheriff's office.

At 8:02 a.m., Father Teuschel, 70, was taken to Noyes Memorial Hospital with serious injuries. The priest suffered broken ribs and had to have his spleen removed, according to Father James F. Doyle, pastor of St. Rose Church in Lima, where Father Teuschel had stayed the previous night before leaving for Dans-



ville. Father Teuschel also suffered internal head bleeding, Father Doyle said. Insley was also taken to Noyes with minor injuries.

Investigating the accident were Investigator Kenneth Jaroszek and Sgt. Jeffrey McDonald, along with Dansville Police Chief Mark Vernam. Emergency rescue crews from the Dansville Fire Department and Dansville Ambulance responded to the scene.

A mercy flight later transported Father Teuschel to Strong for further treatment, Father Doyle said.

Father Teuschel had been in Lima after attending earlier in the week a reunion of diocesan priests ordained in 1949. The reunion took place at St. Michael's Parish in Newark, where his classmate Father Edward Steinkirchner serves as pastor.

On Wednesday night, Father Teuschel stayed at St. Rose, as he has on many occasions before, Father Doyle explained. Father Doyle added that that he had urged his colleague not to travel to Dansville the morning of the accident.

"I said, 'Andrew, you shouldn't go out in this weather. The roads are bad,' Father Doyle recalled. "He said, 'No, I want to get back and say Mass for my people.'"

Chemung County group will host state pro-life convention April 23

ELMIRA — As Sharon Pierce sees it, this is a perfect example of less meaning more.

"We think a major part of the thinking in the United States comes from small towns, not big cities — because we don't think big," said Pierce, who serves as president of Chemung County Right to Life, Inc.

"The way we work, we know each other more and know a lot of pastors in the community. People are important; one person at a time," Pierce explained.

This philosophy resulted in the theme for the 1994 New York State Right to Life Committee, Inc., convention. Scheduled for Saturday, April 23 at the downtown Holiday Inn, 1 Holiday Plaza, this gathering's theme is "Grass Roots Pro-Life: Heart to Heart."

Pierce, who is chairperson for this event, noted that this is the first time since the 1970s that the state convention has been held in Chemung County.

Activities will run from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eight featured speakers are scheduled to address participants during seminars and workshops.

Serving as the keynote speaker will be Linda Riva, a Cambridge, Mass., resident who once had an abortion. She now counsels other women who have had abortions.

In addition to the speakers, several pro-life groups from around the state will station tables and booths.

Pierce is looking forward to the participation of nearby Elmira College and Corning Community College students who are interested in forming pro-life groups.

"It's a very confrontational issue on campus, so they have to be prudent in the way they do it," Pierce noted.

According to Pierce, the convention's top priority is to provide as much current information as possible on pro-life issues.

"You can't help somebody be pro-life if you don't know the issues yourself," remarked Pierce, a parishioner at St. Mary's Church, 224 Franklin St.

EDITORS' NOTE: Those who would like further details about the state convention should call Sharon Pierce at 607/734-2680.

—Mike Latona

Group traveled to site of Mexican Indian uprising

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — When Mary Anne Ramerman first entered her host family's home in Chiapas, Mexico, she saw it through the eyes of a privileged U.S. citizen.

"They had no running water, just an outhouse," observed the pastoral associate at Corpus Christi Parish, 864 E. Main St. "They had two beds for six people."

Yet, as she came to know her hosts, she began to see that the family's father saw himself climbing the economic ladder, rather than standing on its lower rungs. Using money given to him three years ago by Corpus Christi's other pastoral associate, Father Enrique Cadena, who was then stationed in Chiapas, the man had established a moderately profitable taco business in the local market.

"He had bought two outfits for each of his children. He had bought them schoolbooks ... He now had two beds instead of one," Ramerman recalled the man telling her.

"The first thing I had noticed was what he didn't have," she concluded. "His way of thinking was of being so grateful."

Trying to see Mexico through the eyes of its poor was one of the reasons behind the trip, according to Father Cadena, a native of Mexico. Along with the priest and five other Corpus parishioners, Ramerman visited Chiapas March 7-16. Chiapas was the site of an Indian uprising against the Mexican government in January.

The group split up among three non-Indian families living in Shanka, which is located outside Chiapas' capital, Tuxtla Gutierrez. While in Chiapas, the group visited Indian and non-Indian Catholics, noting the differences in worship styles, according to Ginny DiPonzio, a Corpus Christi parishioner.

The non-Indian Mexicans worshiped in services much like the ones U.S. citizens attend, DiPonzio said, but the Indians — who belong to four major tribes

— combined their own customs with traditional Catholicism, she added.

"There were no pews in their churches," she said. "The people would put straw down and bring in food and drink with them. There were statues all around with candles lit."

Then, for hours, and sometimes days, the Indians will chant as a form of prayer, DiPonzio and Father Cadena explained. The priest added that the Indians have been encouraged by the local church to retain their style of worship in the Catholic faith, rather than adopt non-Indian ways.

Traveling to visit the Indians, many of whom live in the mountains, was an arduous task, Father Cadena noted.

"We had to go through eight military checkpoints to go to the mountains," Father Cadena said. "We were there just after the negotiations for peace. We could see there still was tension."

The peace agreement between the government and the Zapatista National Liberation Army was mediated by Bishop Samuel Ruiz Garcia of San Cristobal de Las Casas, a longtime Indian-rights advocate. Father Cadena explained, however, that the recent assassination of Mexican presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio in Tijuana may affect resolution of the Indians' longstanding grievances.

"I'm afraid that interest in the Indians may be put aside," he said.

Whatever the interest of the Mexican government in the Indians' plight, Corpus Christi plans to stay in touch with Catholics in Chiapas, the travelers said. Future plans include youth-group exchanges with Chiapas; yearly visits by Corpus parishioners to the region; and fundraising for the planting of a medicinal herb garden, which would serve as an alternative to high-priced medicine unavailable to the poor, they said.

DiPonzio also noted that she and Kathleen Campbell, who also traveled to Chiapas, are considering becoming practical nurses so that they might go back and start a health clinic in the region.

Priests at Corning convocation to study collaborative ministry

CORNING — Diocesan priests will gather at the Corning Hilton April 18-20 for their annual convocation.

All active diocesan priests are scheduled to participate in the convocation, unless they have received permission from Bishop Matthew H. Clark not to attend. Religious-order priests serving in the diocese and retired priests are also invited to attend.

Many of the retired and religious-order priests who do not attend will cover parishes while their priests are at the convocation.

The theme for Convocation '94 is "Priestly Leadership in the Church: Today and Tomorrow."

During the three-day gathering at the Corning Hilton, 125 Denison Parkway, the priests will hear presentations focusing on collaboration in ministry, noted Father David Faraone, a member of the planning team for this year's convocation.

That collaboration, Father Faraone explained, is "between priests, other people on staff and other authority figures in the parish."

This year's theme follows up on last year's convocation focusing on ministry skills, and previous convocations' considerations of individual personal skills, noted Father Faraone, parochial vicar at Our Mother of Sorrows Church, 5000 Mount Read Blvd., Greece.

Speakers for this year's convocation will be Father Philip J. Murnion, director of the National Pastoral Life Center in New York City, as well as Sister Carroll Juliano, SWCJ, and Brother Loughlin-Sofield, ST, co-authors of *Collaborative Ministry: Skills and Guidelines*. Bishop Matthew H. Clark is also slated to speak.

Father Murnion will deliver a talk on priesthood and ministry, "Continuity and Change." He will also lead a panel discussion on the topic, "The Priesthood We Need and How We Get There."

Sister Juliano and Brother Sofield will conduct an all-day workshop on "Collaboration in Today's Church."

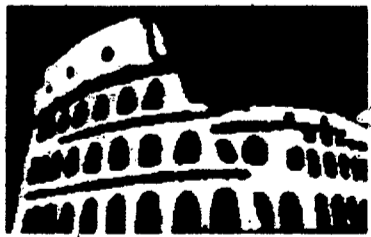
In addition, diocesan priests celebrating their 25th and 50th anniversaries of ordination will be honored at an April 20 banquet.

—Lee Strong

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