

France celebrates champ of homeless 'Abbe Pierre'

PARIS (CNS) — France is celebrating a priest little known outside the country but regarded at home as a modern-day saint.

He is a frail, 81-year-old Franciscan monk called Abbe Pierre, who for decades has championed the poor and the homeless.

As recession and unemployment continue in France, Abbe Pierre's 40-year crusade to help the underprivileged is

back in the headlines. The priest himself remains at the top of the popularity polls, outdistancing film stars and politicians.

Earlier this year, radio stations commemorating his role in French society rebroadcast his appeal for the homeless, which aired on the same day in 1954.

Also, his book *Testament* was released in book shops in the first week of February.

The white-bearded monk, whose name is Henri-Antoine Groues, was on the cover of the news magazine *Le Point*, which described him as a legend and noted how he had stayed in the limelight for four decades "in this century of passing fads."

In 1954, Abbe Pierre went on the air saying: "My friends, help. A woman froze to death last night on the footpath ... clutching an expulsion order to her side."

By all accounts, the funds which poured in from across the country after that broadcast were unprecedented.

Abbe Pierre, who says up to half a mil-

lion French people are sleeping on the streets, hopes to see a replay of that outpouring of charity.

Harsh cold at the start of winter killed more than half a dozen homeless late last year, prompting national remorse and a torrent of tough statements from Abbe Pierre and his supporters calling on the government to provide housing for the poor.

The government set up soup kitchens, opened subway stations to the homeless and sent police to search alleyways, empty warehouses and construction sites for people sleeping beneath cardboard sheeting or heaps of rags.

But the priest wants more and warns of dire consequences in his book if the world fails to share the dividends of wealth.

"The poorest of the poor are beginning to understand, even when they are illiterate, that if we live well, it is partly because of what we have taken away from them," he wrote in the book.

"Inevitably, this will end up like the decadent Roman empire when the barbarians reached the heart of Rome in barely a few months," he said.

Born into a wealthy family, the gentle-voiced priest gave up a comfortable life to become a Franciscan monk and served as a chaplain in the French Resistance during World War II. After the war he served as a centrist member of Parliament.

His life took another tack in the icy winter of 1953-54 when thousands of homeless French people risked freezing to death. He then founded the Emmaus self-help organization whose members collect, repair and resell second-hand furniture.

In the 1980s, he embarrassed the Socialist government by drawing attention to the plight of the "new poor" who slipped through France's social security net. With money donated by charities and individuals, Abbe Pierre founded a food bank.

Senior bowling event scheduled for May 11

ROCHESTER — Registration is open for the 20th annual Senior Citizens Singles Bowling Tournament and Luncheon. This event, sponsored by Monroe County Office for the Aging, will take place May 11 at Marcel's Olympic Bowl, 1350 Scottsville Road.

The tournament is open to all Monroe County residents ages 60 and older. Pre-registration is required by May 4. Registration forms are available at bowling centers in Monroe County as well as the Office for the Aging, 375 Westfall Road. For details, call 716/274-7823 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays.

Applications available for 1994 Senior Games

CORTLAND — Registration is open for the 1994 New York State Parks Senior Games, scheduled for June 9-12 at State University of New York College at Cortland.

This 12th annual competition offers more than 40 sports for men and women ages 55-and-over.

Application deadline is May 2. For information, call 800/342-9871.

Texas couple married 75 years say: 'Try to get along'

By Helen Osman
Catholic News Service

TEMPLE, Texas — They're in wheelchairs now and not picking long rows of cotton together, but Godfrey and Elenora Hoelscher are still by each other's side.

The Temple couple is celebrating 75 years of marriage and nearly a century of being together. Born in 1896 outside of Westphalia, Godfrey and his family were neighbors of his future wife, Elenora Niehues, born in 1899, and her family. The two literally grew up together.

"We went to school, to church together, everything," he told *The Catholic Spirit*, newspaper of the Austin diocese. As they grew older, marriage was discussed but World War I intervened, and

Godfrey was assigned to Camp Mabry.

The two decided to go ahead with wedding plans at Visitation Parish in Westphalia and set Nov. 18, 1918, as the date. Armistice was declared Nov. 11, but Godfrey still expected to be sent to Germany. After a brief honeymoon, he went back to Camp Mabry to learn his orders had been canceled: he'd be staying stateside.

He returned to Elenora and the two began a life of farming.

"We had lots of ups and downs, but things always came through for us,"

Elenora said. "I would always say we'll leave everything in the hands of God. And we did."

The family raised cotton, and eight children. In 1934, after a couple of years of disastrous weather and poor crops, they moved to Temple, where Godfrey took a job with the American Desk Company and his wife raised chickens and sold eggs.

Their advice to couples considering marriage today is as simple and as profound as their long life together.

"Try to get along," Godfrey said.

W.A.B.
DRUGS & SURGICAL SUPPLIES
4358 CULVER RD.
323-1470 FAX 323-2810

SURGICAL, OSTOMY AND ALL HEALTH-RELATED ITEMS COMPLETE RX LINE FREE DELIVERY AVAILABLE
For 24 hr. Rx Service
After Hours EMERGENCY ONLY!
Call 323-2324

CHOOSING A PLACE TO LIVE....

DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A HASSLE

CALL H.O.M.E./ 262-7047 HOUSING OPTIONS MADE EASY

Assistance locating and applying for:

- Independent apartments
- Supervised/Enriched living situations
- Skilled nursing home facilities

We provide:


- Information/Referral
- Assistance with application forms
- PRI/Screen required for nursing home admission
- Coordination of all necessary paperwork
- Transportation

A reasonable fee is discussed at the initial contact.

H.O.M.E. is a program of Catholic Family Center/Elder Services Department



THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER



EDWIN SULEWSKI FUNERAL DIRECTOR

When a person dies at home, what should you do?

You can call your funeral director for specific directions but here is a general procedure. First, contact your physician or emergency team. If the death is unexpected you should notify the police who will in turn notify the coroner. This will also assure that medical help can be given should there be confusion as to whether the person is dead. If the death was expected notify your physician for verification of death. If you wish, contact your clergy and relatives or friends who are close to you. When all medical and legal matters are cared for contact the funeral director who will take your loved one to the funeral home and provide you with support and assistance for the next several days.

CALL AND ASK ABOUT OUR VIDEO TRIBUTE PROGRAMS

SCHAUMAN-SULEWSKI FUNERAL HOME
2100 St. Paul St., Rochester, NY 14621
(716) 342-3400

Famous ALLSTATE HEARING SYSTEMS

Now You Can Afford Hearing Aids - Most Major Brands from \$399
We Offer Quality Hearing Aids at Affordable Prices

Other Companies are Charging \$900-\$1,400 for these Same Hearing Aids!

So Call Today to See How Much Money You are going to Save!

FREE Hearing Aid Screenings to the Public
FREE IN-HOME APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

- If you have trouble with background noise
- If words run together
- If you hear words but don't understand them
- If people seem to mumble

Then your hearing has slipped OUT OF FOCUS
So call today for your appointment, we may be able to help!

If you wear a hearing aid, take advantage of the coupon below and experience the latest STATE OF THE ART TECHNOLOGY. If you don't wear a hearing aid, we will conduct a brief check of your hearing ability to determine whether a more thorough evaluation is necessary. You should hear what you're missing! ALLSTATE Quality, You Can Hear the Difference.

CALL NOW FOR APPOINTMENT


COUPON
FREE Hearing Aid Check-up
Free Battery for your Hearing Aid

Allstate Hearing Systems
341 Ridge Road East,
(Side of Bingo Palace)
Rochester, NY 14621
(716) 339-9140
We accept most major insurances

Mon.-Fri. 9 am - 5 pm
FREE Home Appointments

OVER 12 YEARS EXPERIENCE HELPING PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU

Evaluations conducted for the sole purpose of selection and adaptation of hearing aid use.



STER, N.Y.

photographer and Moore

t for ay 6 ge per or a Per- field Fri- at the nter, 41.

es 13-18, ation of, dance, ng arts. y Edger-

is April a spon- hult call

place

McQuaid's Zwahlen, chillinger, er, Michael evin Bell, bert, John and Steven

L

AY 7th

ts - \$5 y South