



Birthday priest

Father Elmer W. Heindl, parochial vicar of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Greece, was honored on his birthday June 14 with the dedication of the new Heindl House Early Childhood Center. (At right) Father Heindl's nephew, Kevin Cilano, who also celebrated his birthday June 14, applauds his uncle. (Above) Father Heindl acknowledges the crowd's appreciation.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

GRCC confers annual Faith in Action awards

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

BRIGHTON — The Greater Rochester Community of Churches honored 41 individuals and groups for their contributions to the community during the second annual Faith in Action banquet, held June 14 at Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave.

Lovie Smith, president of Partners for Food, earned the Faith in Action Community Award. The other 40 winners were honored with Faith in Action awards.

Individuals were nominated for the awards by their faith communities, observed Denise Mack, pastoral associate at Mendon's St. Catherine of Siena Parish. Mack served as the banquet's chairwoman. The awards resulted from GRCC contacting all faith communities in the Greater Rochester area, Mack said.

"We want to lift up the fact that these are people in the local grass roots who are renewing the face of the earth," Mack said. "In their quiet ways they try to stop violence, try to stop drugs, try to make the world a better place.

"They did it behind the scenes," Mack continued. "In most cases, they saw a need and rose to meet it."

Smith, winner of the Faith in Action Community Award, is a member of St. Bridget's Parish in Rochester. Employed by the Catholic Youth Organization as a placement coordinator, Smith has been active in the St. Bridget's Community Outreach Team, which focuses on com-

munity food needs.

In responding to her community's needs, Smith began going to the Public Market on Saturday mornings to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables to sell in the Upper Falls neighborhood. Profits went to St. Bridget's Church's building fund.

Smith, who will be featured in a July issue of the *Catholic Courier*, was later elected to the board of Partners Through Food. She eventually became the organization's president.

The following is a list of Faith in Action Award winners and some of the work for which they were honored:

Roger and Louise Abrey, members of Salem United Church of Christ, are leaders of the Salem Nutrition Center, which provides meals to more than 200 people semiweekly and distributes clothing monthly;

Felice Armignacco, a member of St. Rita's Church, where as past chairwoman of the Social Ministry Committee she pioneered "Witnessing With the Poor," which provides monthly presentations on social-ministry issues. She also volunteers at Mercy Center for the Aging;

Nita Ashman, a deacon and elder of Ogden Presbyterian Church. She works with Cameron Community Ministries, through which she delivers food and clothing to Cameron Community Center and cooks for as many as 100 people in the center's supper program;

Annie Barrentine, of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, who has been heavily involved with her church's music ministry

and has been a storyteller for the Children's Hour. A member of the Urban League, she is musical director of the Perinton African American Heritage Committee;

Jean Bartlett, of Lake Avenue Baptist Church, president of Church Women United. She is a former member of the Rochester Sanctuary Committee and the Public Christian Mission Committee of the American Baptist judicatory;

Sally Bermudes has been active with Church Women United, advocating for peace and justice issues, including closing of the U.S. School of the Americas, which trains Central and South American military leaders. She also has worked for gun control and stricter enforcement of infant-formula advertising and promotion;

Joan Bouthillier, a member of Mendon's St. Catherine of Siena Church, one of the founders of the Social Action Network;

Lillian and Aaron Braveman, of Temple B'rith Kodesh, organizers of a senior group within their congregation;

Pat Brotz, of Hilton Baptist Church, who coordinates the Hilton Baptist Clothes Closet;

James and Maryann Carroll, of Spencerport's St. John the Evangelist Parish, where the couple started and currently chair the Social Ministry Committee. They are also involved with the Social Action Network;

Verna Clemons, of the Baha'i Faith Community, who serves as one of nine members on the Local Spiritual Assembly of Rochester. Clemons is a

teacher at John Marshall High School;

Milton D. David, of the Seneca United Methodist Church, who has served on the board of the Rochester Rehabilitation Center. David was part of the original planning team for the Al Sigl Center and a member of the board of Integrated Mental Health. He now serves on the board of Coordinated Care Service;

Lois Davis, of the Judicial Process Commission, who helped create the commission as well as such groups as Task Force on Courts and the Center for Dispute Settlement;

Father Peter Enyan-Boadu, parochial vicar of the Roman Catholic Community of the 19th Ward. The priest celebrated Rochester's first Haitian Mass, which has evolved into a monthly Mass celebration and a social gathering for Rochester-area Haitians;

Harold and Josephine Files, who serve as deacon and deaconess with Greece Baptist Church. Harold has served as chairman of the board of Mission and Josephine coordinates the church's Nursing Home Ministry;

Jane Gilman, coordinator of Church and Community Ministries, and a member of the Women's Service Board at the First Baptist Church of Rochester. She is also a volunteer at the Fairport Baptist Home;

Hilary Gutman, of St. Mary's Church in Rochester, who works at Bethany House and FOODLINK. In addition to developing a preschool program for children at St. Mary's, she plays the harp at Colgate Rochester Divinity School;

Maggie D. Harris, of the Rochester Lutheran Mission Society, who is the Lutheran deaconess and mission developer for Rochester Community Ministry and Christian Community Center;

Nathan "Neil" Jaschik, of the Jewish Community Federation, who was one of the founders of the Commission on Christian-Jewish Relations;

Kaye Lechleitner, property management chairperson for Blessed Sacrament Church, who helped develop the "Next-to-New Sale" into a major parish fundraiser;

Marcia Mendola and Dorothy Dispenza, co-chairwomen of the St. Louis Church World Hunger Awareness Task Force at Pittsford's St. Louis Church;

Jason Moore, of Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church, a junior at Wilson Magnet School who is active with the Boy

Continued on page 4

Activism emphasized at social-ministry banquet

ELMIRA HEIGHTS — In this case, it is highly recommended that employees not go quietly about their work.

During a banquet held Monday, June 6, social-ministry workers were implored to maintain consistent contact with governmental officials. About 45 parish-level Catholic social ministry workers from the Southern Tier attended the event, sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier and held at the Sweet-N-Saucy Restaurant.

The guest speaker for the banquet was Elmira resident Madileva Rourke, a former lobbyist for Network, a

Catholic legislative lobbying organization.

Rourke provided the gathering with suggestions on how to make the greatest impact with government officials. She also encouraged them not to think that their calls and letters were not important.

"What our legislature needs to hear is our voice, and to hear our voice consistently," agreed Anthony Barbaro, Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier's director, in a telephone interview.

Barbaro added that these tactics will be most useful in current national is-

ssues such as health care and welfare reform.

In addition, Barbaro noted that vocal support is badly needed for federal programs such as the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program. This service — which enables Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier to acquire food for the needy at no charge — is facing elimination after the current fiscal year concludes on Sept. 30.

"That's a million pounds of food for our area each year that finds its way into the hands of hungry children and elderly people," Barbaro said.

— Mike Latona