

Migrant-worker outreach increases

Penn Yan offers Spanish Mass

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

The growing population of Hispanic migrant workers within the Rochester diocese is finding more options for practicing its Catholic faith.

This is particularly true in the Finger Lakes area, where weekly Masses during the peak crop season are being offered for the first time.

"In the last five years, the increase here in Mexican and Central American farm workers has been enormous. And they're very staunchly Catholic," noted Father Charles F. Mulligan, who serves as co-pastor of St. Michael's Church in Penn Yan.

To accommodate this influx, St. Michael's began a weekly 4 p.m. Sunday Mass in Spanish last month. This Mass will continue at least into October or November, said Father Mulligan.

St. Michael's is serving as one of three diocesan centers for migrant workers and their families. Its coverage area affects Hispanics not only in Yates County, but also such surrounding counties as Ontario and Steuben.

A similar ministry has existed for the past three years in the diocese's northeast section. Centered at Church of the Epiphany in Sodus, these efforts are concentrated in Wayne County and some parts of the Syracuse diocese. Weekly Sunday Masses in Spanish are celebrated at 2 p.m. at Epiphany.

The third — and most established — migrant-worker center is at Brockport's Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In existence for more than a decade, this center serves workers in



File photo

Last June Ana de la Cruz participated in a welcoming Mass at Brockport's Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church for migrant workers. The ministry serves migrants living in the Rochester diocese's northwest section as well as others from the Buffalo diocese.

the diocese's northwest corner as well as some of the Buffalo diocese. A 1:30 p.m. Spanish Mass is conducted at Nativity each Sunday.

According to Father Enrique Cadena, diocesan coordinator of migrant ministry, the largest number of Hispanics attending Mass is found in Sodus, where congregations have exceeded 200. Approximately half that number take part in the Brockport Mass, and an average of about 75 attend Mass in Penn Yan.

In addition to the Masses, priests and lay workers in these coverage areas pay frequent visits to migrant-worker camps. "We hope to discover other places where (the workers) are," said Father Mulligan.

Father Mulligan explained that the ministry also is designed to provide direction for workers who are unfamiliar with American customs and culture. "We're trying to integrate them as well," he acknowledged.

Father Cadena emphasized that the Penn Yan, Sodus and Brockport centers are working closely with each other in order to promote Catholic unity among Hispanics.

"Our theme for this year is to be church — to recognize our diversity, (but also) our union within Christ," said Father Cadena, who also serves as pastoral associate at Corpus Christi Church in Rochester.

Father Cadena added that this ministry is being offered on a year-round basis in Brockport and Sodus, since a number of Hispanic workers have settled in the area permanently.

"Most of the people go back home, but some stay. We felt it was unfair (that year-round ministry was not available to them)," Father Cadena said.

Father Mulligan acknowledged that it's too early to tell whether a similar need will arise in the Finger Lakes region during the winter months.

Cluster announces revised Mass schedule

NAPLES/PRATTSBURG — The newly formed cluster of St. Januarius Church, Naples, and St. Patrick's Church, Prattsburg, has implemented a new weekend and daily Mass schedule.

Saturday Masses will be held at St. Patrick's Church at 4 p.m. and St. Januarius Church at 6 p.m. Sunday liturgies will take place at St. Patrick's at 8 a.m., and at St. Januarius at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m.

Weekday Masses will be celebrated at St. Januarius on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 8 a.m., and at St. Patrick's on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at St. Januarius on Saturdays at 5:30 p.m., at St. Patrick's on Saturdays at 3 p.m., or at either church by appointment.

Local agencies establish widowed person's group

ROCHESTER — The Regional Council on Aging, in conjunction with the American Association of Retired Persons, is offering a new program called Widowed Persons Service.

The service will provide practical information and advice to recently widowed men and women of all ages in Monroe County. This work will be done through telephone calls, personal visitations and group sessions.

Outreach volunteers of all ages are needed for the service to help work one-on-one with recently widowed people. Interested people who have been widowed for 18 months or longer — even if they have remarried — should call June Morin at 716/671-3985 by July 14.

Holy Trinity commissions 11 to its Stephen ministry

WEBSTER — Holy Trinity Church, 1460 E. Ridge Road, recently commissioned its first group of Stephen ministers.

Stephen ministers are outreach workers who provide support for people experiencing difficulties like sickness, grief, depression or loneliness. Confidentiality is respected.

Holy Trinity's 11 Stephen ministers are Annette Bobeck, Gene Braselton, Lucy DiCesare, Julie Ellender, Eleanor Fiamano, Susan Gianforte, Florence McCarty, Kathleen McCarty, Donna McNinch, Ronald McNinch and Belva Parsons.

Stephen ministers spent a minimum of two hours of training every Thursday from October to May. In addition to their Thursday sessions, Stephen ministers also attended retreats and engaged in spiritual exercises.

Stephen Ministry leaders who conducted the training were Dolores and Peter Latona, and Margaret Smock. Father Thomas F. Nellis, pastor, served as the group's adviser.

For information on the program, contact Judith Kiehl, pastoral associate and program coordinator, at 716/265-1616.



Provided photo

Sister Phillis Sheppard celebrated her first vows with family members June 26.

Former Rochesterian professes first vows

ST. MARY-OF-THE-WOODS, IND. — Sister Phillis Sheppard, a former parishioner at St. Bridget's Church in Rochester, professed her first vows as a Sister of Providence on June 26. The ceremony took place at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.

Sister Sheppard is a native of Philadelphia. She received her master's degree from the Colgate Rochester Divinity School, and entered the Sisters of Providence in 1991.

Currently, she is pursuing a doctorate degree in theology and personal degree sciences at the Chicago Theological Seminary. She also serves as a pastoral psychotherapist for the Center for Religion and Psychotherapy in Chicago.

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