

First-ever Rochester Marian Conference nears

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Those people who plan to participate in the upcoming Marian Conference here are in for the spiritual event of a lifetime, organizers claim.

"It's kind of high-powered," remarked Father Donald E. McCarthy, CSB, who serves as parochial vicar of St. Rita's Church in Webster. "People come back from these and they're on fire. They say it's a wonderful experience; this is almost like a pilgrimage."

"Mary wants this. She's trying to unite us," added Arthur J. Harris, president of the Knights of Columbus Finger Lakes Chapter. "It does touch you in a certain way. It brings something out in you, knowing that she's looking over you."

The conference will make its Rochester debut when it takes place at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center July 22-24. It's also the first Marian Conference to be scheduled in New York state, although similar events have been held in several other parts of the United States since such conferences began approximately 12 years ago.

Serving as Rochester conference co-sponsors are the Finger Lakes Knights of Columbus and the Rochester Center for Peace. Harris estimated that 2,000 to 2,500 clergy and lay people are expected to attend the weekend event, with several coming from out-of-state.

He noted that this is the first time a Marian Conference has ever been spon-

sored by the Knights of Columbus.

"It's a biggie for us. We're hoping that this goes well so we can possibly host it again next year," Harris said.

"Mary, Mother of Divine Mercy" will serve as the three-day gathering's theme. Activities will include a combination of prayer, reflection, liturgy, testimony, teaching and music.

Single-day themes are: "Sanctity of Life," July 22; "Family," July 23; and "The Serving Church and the Priesthood," July 24. A youth program will also take place on Saturday, July 23, from 1:15-5:15 p.m.

Noted guest speakers from around the world are expected to participate including Father Svetozar Kraljevic, OFM, a priest and author from Medjugorje in the former Yugoslavia; Father Ken

Roberts, an author and television-show host from England; Irish singer David Parkes who will serve as master of ceremonies; and Father Stephen Barham, a priest from Fresno, Calif. who is currently producing a film on the life of Christ titled *The Son of Man*.

Also speaking will be Father Albert J. Shamon, columnist for the *Catholic Courier*. His lecture, scheduled for July 22 at 7:45 p.m., is titled "Will God Bless America?"

In addition to the seminars, an adoration chapel will be available at the following times: July 22, 3 p.m.-midnight; July 23, 7:30 a.m.-midnight; and July 24, 9 a.m.-4:15 p.m.

"This beautiful event reminds all to be people of prayer and joy, as was Mary in her life and vocation," wrote Bishop

Matthew H. Clark in a letter to conference organizers. "The themes ... are rich and vital."

Although activities are structured to reflect traditional Catholic teachings, Father McCarthy noted that both conservative and liberal Catholics have embraced previous Marian Conferences.

"I've been stunned. It does not just draw a very ultra-conservative group," remarked Father McCarthy, who is serving as the organizing committee's clergy liaison. "It attracts all elements."

EDITORS' NOTE: Weekend and single-day registrations are still available for Rochester's Marian Conference. For details, call Connie O'Brien at 716/388-0737, Rose Kramer at 621-7755, or Anne Balzano at 467-7107.



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Catholic Daughters hold Mass and brunch

GENEVA — The Catholic Daughters of America, Court Annunciation #416 in Geneva, recently marked their 75th anniversary with a Mass celebrated by the Court's chaplain, Monsignor Gerard Krieg, at St. Stephen's Church. The Mass was followed by a brunch at Club 86.

During the brunch, Sally Rytlewski, immediate past state regent, read a congratulatory letter from the national regent, Edna Jane Nolte, and presented a plaque commemorating the event to Regent Madeline DeMaria. A poem written by Verna Grau, the Court's recording secretary, was then recited before Eleanor Hefferan, financial secretary, read a brief history of the Court.

In addition, the Court honored 11 of its 13 living past regents who attended the celebration.

Young adults invited to attend July 16 picnic

BUSHNELL'S BASIN — A picnic sponsored by Young Adult Christians will take place Saturday, July 16, at Powder Mills Park.

The picnic will run from 2-7 p.m. Food, drinks and games are covered in the \$5 fee. An outdoor Mass will be celebrated at 5 p.m.

All young-adult individuals and couples between the ages of 18 and 35 are encouraged to attend. Call Marlana Mendola at 716/381-6872; Kristin Brooks at 359-1351 or Ken Warren at 377-7884 for details.

Young Adult Christians is a coalition of young adults from Assumption of Our Lady Church in Fairport, Guardian Angels Church in Henrietta and St. Louis Church in Pittsford.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Arms open to children

Members of Camp Open Arms, a day camp for children with cancer and related blood diseases as well as for their siblings, took a July 7 trip from the village pier in Fairport on the 'Colonial Belle' canal boat. (Above) Counselor Jen Kip (center) offers her shoulder to Katie Pellegrino (right) and comforting arms to Tahrea Flemming. (Below) Hayley Gendron (foreground) and Shalynn Pinson view sites along the canal with counselors Jaimie Iman (far right) and Tracy Coultry. Operating in its 13th year, Camp Open Arms accommodates 175 children. The camp, sponsored by Cancer Action, is located at the Cobbles School in Penfield.



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