

Priest answers call to help Rwandans

By Kathleen Schwar
Freelance writer

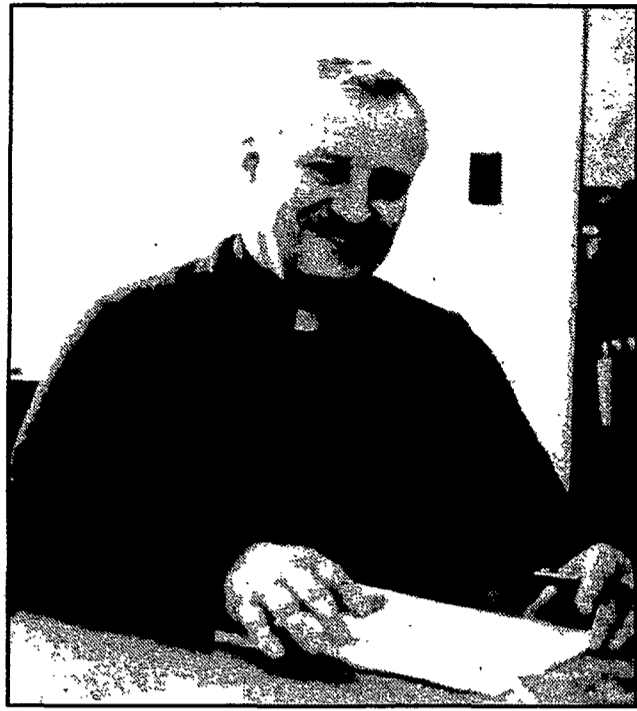
NEW YORK — Father Thomas Fitzpatrick again has been recruited for emergency humanitarian help, this time for Rwandan refugees.

The Jesuit Refugee Service has asked the Rochester native to assess long-term needs of Rwandans, who continue to flee in droves from savage ethnic warring occurring since April.

Father Fitzpatrick, a 1948 graduate of Aquinas Institute, has been executive director of the Xavier Society for the Blind for five years. Since his 16 years of school-related work in the Philippines, he has administered earthquake relief work in Armenia as operations desk director for Caritas Internationalis, and coordinated food donations as a Catholic Relief Services country representative to Ethiopia.

"Tom is very well known and highly regarded. He knows how to go into a situation, see what the needs are, and how to gear up programs," said Father Rob McChesney, director of JRS USA in Washington, D.C. "He is one of the most experienced Jesuits in Africa. There are not a lot of Jesuits in general who could do this."

Father Fitzpatrick, 63, left for the troubled area July 14. He planned to meet team members in Kampala, Uganda, and to drive to Ngara, Tanzania, just across the border from Rwanda. The Jesuits' visit comes at the invitation of Caritas Tanzania. Father Fitzpatrick said he



Provided photo
Father Thomas Fitzpatrick left last week to help with emergency humanitarian aid for Rwandan refugees.

will work with two African natives who are scholastic seminarians and know the dialects. With him on the team are the JRS Uganda national director and the JRS project leader in Adjumani.

Hutus, who have controlled the government, and Tutsis, who are leading a rebel movement, have been fighting since April.

More than 65 percent of the Rwandan refugees are Roman Catholic. This

population now overwhelms Roman Catholic citizens in the Rulenge diocese, which covers all refugee camps in Tanzania. The largest is at Benaco, with more than 260,000 refugees. Three camps in the diocese were expected to soon total 400,000. In addition, a wave of 1 million Rwandans fled west to Zaire over the past weekend. As many as 50 refugees, mostly children, were trampled to death when Rwandans charged across the border.

Father Fitzpatrick explained that Cardinal Roger Etchagarray, head of the Secretariat for Justice and Peace, visited Rwanda and, upon his return to Rome, appealed to missionary orders for help. Coordination among some 110 nongovernmental organizations already working with refugees is going to be essential, Father Fitzpatrick said.

"The fighting between the Hutus and Tutsis crosses all lines. They were an integrated society. But your Hutu teacher might have taken the machete to your (Tutsi) grandparents. I think there is going to be a lot of counseling needed," Father Fitzpatrick said in a brief telephone call last week from New York.

According to Father McChesney, other needs to be assessed include programmatic, education, and health.

Webster parish embarks on drive for a new center

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

WEBSTER — St. Rita's Parish, 1008 Maple Drive, has embarked on a fundraising drive to raise \$1 million for the construction of a 12,500-square foot parish center, according to Father John T. Reif, pastor.

Deacon Stan Douglas met with parishioners at last weekend's Masses to explain the project, Father Reif said. Parishioners had already given their input concerning the center's physical qualities. The parish hopes to break ground on the project by May 22, 1995, the pastor added.

Father Reif explained that the parish needs the new center for such areas as its

youth ministry and adult education programs.

"We really don't have large meeting rooms as such," he added.

St. Rita's pastor noted that construction of the parish's current church, completed in 1984, was financed solely through solicitation of donations, and that the parish will use the same approach to finance the new center.

Project Manager Steve Cataldi said that about a dozen people had already made pledges to donate funds, and that the general public will be solicited for pledges through August. He added that donors can give a lump sum, or space their gift out over a number of years.

Both Father Reif and Cataldi said that no special-event fundraisers are planned

to finance the project, though Cataldi said small-scale fundraisers would take place if needed.

The center will be added on to the existing church, according to a copy of an artist's rendering of the project provided to the *Catholic Courier* by LaBella Associates P.C., the architectural firm handling the project.

The new parish center will house an assembly hall-gymnasium along with multiple meeting rooms, a kitchen and a stage, according to a project summary statement provided by Steve Cataldi.

The addition's brick masonry and steel structure will complement the existing church building, according to LaBella Associates.

A new entrance to the church will also be constructed, and the current entrance will become a shrine area, the pastor said.

The project summary statement noted that last year's diocesan Synod played a role in inspiring the parish to build the center.

"St. Rita's Synod implementation is focusing on providing family support programs and services for all age groups, with a need to expand youth services that will help bridge the support provided young parishioners after Confirmation into their adult life," the statement read. "Programs to promote the Parish community will be more feasible with expanded meeting space and a facility to house social events and retreats as well as athletic events."

The statement also noted that St. Rita's plans to expand the synodal recommendation to "foster faith growth" by expanding its parish library.

In addition to its own uses, the parish will employ the center for ecumenical programming, the statement concluded.

Father Reif noted that the idea for a parish center surfaced when the current church was built in the mid-1980s.

"At that time, the diocese suggested that we build a parish center, but we really couldn't swing it (financially) at the time," he commented.

Rochester library offers non-profit club listings

ROCHESTER — Non-profit clubs are invited to be listed in the "Directory of Clubs in Monroe County." This publication is currently being updated by the Reynolds Information Center of the Rochester Public Library.

The directory includes listings for adult and/or youth clubs in the following categories: antiques and collectibles; crafts; fine and performing arts; science and technology; and sports/games.

Those wishing to be listed should call 716/428-6798, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no charge for the listing.

These directories are available in several public libraries in Monroe County and are also offered for sale to the general public by the Reynolds Information Center.

Hornell alumni group seeks former students

HORNELL — The St. Ann's School Alumni Association is searching for school graduates.

Members of the Class of 1944 are currently meeting to plan a 50-year reunion scheduled for Aug. 27. Missing class members are: Dan McCarthy, Marilyn Bertram, Alice Murphy Rizzo, Nick Pacaro, Theresa Sanford and Glen Stillwagon.

Those with information about missing class members or other former St. Ann's students, as well as those who would like to join the association, should write St. Ann's School, 27 Erie Ave., Hornell, N.Y. 14843.

U of R needs families for Toddler Program

ROCHESTER — The University of Rochester is seeking middle-income families with children ages 15-24 months to participate in the college's Toddler Program.

This program studies the effects of maternal depression on early childhood development and parent-child relations. The program is also offered as a supplement to mothers currently enrolled in therapy or who have previously sought counseling for depression.

This is a federally funded program so all participants will be compensated for their time. For information, call 716/275-2014.

Reunion committee looking for ex-classmates

ROCHESTER — The class of 1949 at the former St. Augustine's School is planning a reunion for this September.

The reunion committee is searching for five former classmates: George Gumbrecht, Bertrand LaFontaine, Joan Eisworth, Jeanne Lyon and Joyce Schockow.

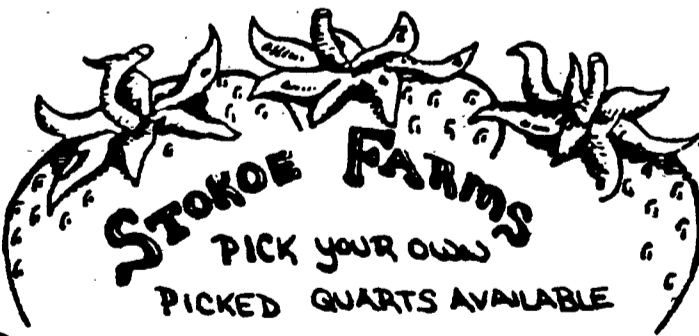
If you know the whereabouts of any of these graduates, contact George E. McCorry at 716/426-4132, or write him at 1215 Howard Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

Correction

Last week's Kids' Club included an incorrect deadline for submitting essays answering the question: **Who is your favorite saint, and why?**

The deadline for entries is Aug. 2, 1994.

We regret the error.



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