

### Holy Day obligation eased under new rule

This solemnity of the Assumption of Mary falls on Monday, Aug. 15, this year. Due to legislation enacted by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, it is not a holy day of obligation this year since the feast day falls on a Monday.

"We continue to celebrate the feast with all the rituals of a solemnity," according to a statement for pastors issued by Father Thomas P. Mull, priest consultant for the diocesan Office of Liturgy. "The people should be encouraged to attend the Eucharist but they are not obligated to do so."

### Caribbean Mass slated for Rochester Aug. 14

ROCHESTER — The diocesan Office of Black Ministries is holding its annual Caribbean Mass at St. Augustine's Church, 410 Chili Ave., on Sunday, Aug. 14.

Father Paul Jervis, associate pastor of Brooklyn's St. Fortunata Parish, will celebrate the Mass featuring a guest choir and Caribbean musicians. After Mass, everyone is invited to socialize and enjoy authentic Caribbean food.

Call 716/328-3210, ext. 337.

### Blessed Trinity plans reunion of 1974 class

AUBURN — Members of Blessed Trinity School's Class of 1974 will hold a reunion Aug. 13, at Sacred Heart Church, 90 Melrose Road.

The reunion for Blessed Trinity's first graduating class will begin with 5:30 p.m. Mass, followed by dinner in the parish hall.

Class members not already contacted and who are interested in attending, should call either 315/487-3076, or 315/253-9295.

### Correction

The headline for a July 28 story on the controversy surrounding six teachers at St. Mary's School in Canandaigua was misleading. The six teachers were not fired; they did not have their contracts renewed for the 1994-95 school year.

## Legislators question domestic partnership

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — Three Monroe County legislators are asking Rochester's City Council to rescind its controversial domestic partnership laws.

In addition, at the legislature's Aug. 2 meeting, they called on the county government to study the city laws' potential financial impact on the county.

"We oppose the whole concept of domestic partnership on a personal basis — and we don't feel taxpayers should be forced to pay for the people who live this lifestyle," said George C. Wiedemer, R-Penfield, one of the proposals' sponsors and a parishioner at St. Joseph Church in Penfield.

"There are costs associated with (the city law) to the county," due to city employees whose benefits are paid for by the county government, observed Dennis A. Pelletier, R-Ogden, who co-sponsored the two proposals. "I don't think a lot of people were aware of this."

Beyond the potential cost to the county, there is a moral issue involved as well, noted Pelletier — a parishioner at St. John the Evangelist Church in Spencerport.

"We believe this demeans marriage,"

Pelletier said.

The two legislators were joined in sponsoring the proposals by John T. Auberger, R-Greece.

The City Council approved two pieces of domestic partnership legislation at a meeting April 12 — less than two weeks after the measures had been officially proposed. The vote came despite requests, including a letter from the Rochester diocese, that council members delay voting on the measures to allow more discussion on the bills and their implications.

One bill created a registry for unmarried homosexual and heterosexual couples living together. The second law extended health benefits to domestic partners of city employees.

The laws went into effect July 1. According to City Clerk Carol Lee Conklin, 28 couples had signed the registry as of Aug. 8. Conklin said she did not know how many of those couples were city employees, or how many had applied for health benefits.

One of the county legislators' proposals is a "memorializing resolution," a letter to City Council requesting that members "reconsider the Domestic Partners Act and rescind the personnel benefits and ability to register as domestic

partners in the City of Rochester."

Other legislators may sign the letter before it is sent. It is not binding on City Council members, Pelletier acknowledged.

The second proposal calls for the county to study the financial impact of the health-insurance-extension component of the domestic partners laws.

The legislators were concerned that the county would have to pay domestic partners' benefits because the county pays the salaries and benefits of 294 city employees at the 911 Emergency Communications Facility and the Rundel Library.

City officials estimated health coverage for domestic partners would run approximately \$2,000 each.

"Part of the thought process was that (the City Council's decision) was arbitrary and I think hastily done," Pelletier observed. "The city did not look into the costs and the impact on the County of Monroe."

Moreover, Pelletier added that since the domestic partnership laws went into effect he has been contacted by a number of upset residents, prompting him to submit the proposals, he acknowledged.

Although the county legislature does not have the power to force the City Council to overturn any legislation, the county government does have options when it comes to paying the health benefits of county-paid employees' domestic partners, Wiedemer said.

Depending on the results of the study now underway on the potential financial impact of the domestic partnership legislation on the county, the county government may indeed "adjust the packages we negotiate with the city. We could reduce the amount," Wiedemer said. Such adjustments could take place in the funding package to be considered later this fall by the legislature, Wiedemer said.

City Council member Timothy Mains, one of the domestic partnership laws' principal sponsors, was out of town and unable to respond to questions about the county legislators' proposals.

### Traditional Irish band to perform at Mercy

ROCHESTER — An *Irish Voice* columnist called them "the best traditional band now active on either side of the Atlantic," and on Friday, Aug. 26, Rochester gets its chance to learn if Altan lives up to its billing.

Scheduled to perform at 8:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Mercy High School, 1437 Blossom Road, Altan's six members can be expected to perform songs from some of the most critically acclaimed folk albums of the 1990s.

Tickets for Altan are \$15 at the door, and \$13 in advance. They may be ordered by calling 716/334-3345.

Tickets are also available at: The Irish Import Shop, 3821 W. Ridge Road; Bop

Shop Records, Village Gate Mall, 274 N. Goodman St.; Sampler Records, 441 Chili Ave.; Parkleigh, 215 Park Ave.; and Borders Books & Music, Hylan Drive.

Proceeds from the concert will benefit the following groups: The Sisters of Mercy project to renovate and restore the original House of Mercy in Dublin, Ireland; Irish Party House radio show, which airs at 11 a.m. Saturdays on WGMC 90.1 FM (Rochester); and the activities of Comhaltas, an international Irish cultural organization that sponsors dances, musical education, Irish language classes and other events.

For information on Comhaltas, call 716/334-3345, or 234-ERIN.

## Obituary

### Lillian Boyce LaPalm; Nazareth College trustee, 84

BRIGHTON — Lillian Rossenbach Boyce LaPalm, past president of the Nazareth College Alumni Association and longtime member of the college's Board of Trustees, died on June 17, 1994 in Brighton. She was 84.

Mrs. LaPalm was born in Rochester and graduated from Nazareth Academy. She later attended Nazareth College, where she was graduated from in 1931. Mrs. LaPalm and her first husband, Lewis J. Boyce, who died in 1973, operated her family's funeral-home business for nearly two decades. In 1984 she mar-

ried Leo F. LaPalm, who died in 1993.

Much of Mrs. LaPalm's life was dedicated to community service. She was active in several organizations over a period of 50 years, and served as one of the first lay members of Nazareth College's advisory board — a role she maintained until her death.

"Lillian's life stands as a shining example of the finest qualities of the liberally educated Catholic woman," said Nazareth College President Rose Marie Beston at Mrs. LaPalm's memorial service. "She was the quintessential

Nazareth College alumna: a woman whose values and contributions bring the traditions and goals of the college to life."

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Rhinecliff and Imperial Drives. Interment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Mrs. LaPalm is survived by two daughters, Alice (William) Grosse, of Waterloo, and Anne (Justin) Martin, of Canandaigua; one son, John (Jan) LaPalm; 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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