

## Hoping to end reign of homelessness

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people respect what Miss America has to say and the message I'm trying to get out to the community."

She noted that the issue has been a personal concern from the time her uncle became homeless.

"You see people suffering day in and day out. It's probably the toughest form of human suffering there is," remarked Aiken, currently studying accounting and music at the University of North Carolina.

The reigning Miss America told the luncheon gathering that homelessness occurs "in the smallest towns and the biggest cities." She cited "lack of education and lack of opportunity" as the barriers preventing this crisis from disappearing.

Carolyn A. Portanova, executive director of Catholic Family Center, noted that Aiken's platform is unique because concerns about the homeless are "not frequently on a young person's agenda."

Deniese Smith, who took temporary residence at Women's Place earlier this summer, was equally impressed with Aiken's visit.

"I thought it was great — that it's go-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Kimberly Aiken, the reigning Miss America, Aug. 17 talks with reporters at Women's Place in Rochester. Aiken toured the shelter, meeting with residents and staff.

ing to bring attention to this problem, and that somebody of such caliber would stand up and be counted for people like us," Smith commented.

She added that employees of Wom-

en's Place should also be recognized for their valuable work.

"They gave me a sense of value that I didn't have before, and the guidance and help that I needed," said Smith.

### CRS is still accepting donations for Rwanda

Several readers have called the paper asking how to help with relief efforts in Rwanda. Checks made out to "Catholic Relief Services" (the memo line should indicate "Rwanda" or "Rwanda relief") should be mailed to: Catholic Relief Services — Rwanda Relief, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, Md. 21203.

In addition, credit-card donations (Mastercard/Visa) are being accepted by telephone from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, at CRS headquarters. Call Donor Services at 1-800-235-2772, ext. 3208, or call the 24-hour, toll-free contribution hotline at 1-800-736-3467.

Although CRS does not have an overseas volunteer program at this time, the organization is accepting resumes only from individuals with prior food distribution/overseas relief and development experience. Interested volunteers should mail their resume to: Skip Staats, Recruitment Manager, CRS, 209 W. Fayette St., Baltimore, Md. 21201.

### St. Martin's to celebrate decade of service Sept. 2

ROCHESTER — St. Martin's Place, 55 Ontario St., located next to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, will celebrate its 10th anniversary with a neighborhood carnival in the church parking lot on Friday, Sept. 2. The carnival will take place from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

In addition to the carnival, community residents, volunteers and benefactors of St. Martin's Place are invited to join in a prayer service at Mount Carmel Church at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 16. The service will be followed by live entertainment and dessert in the parish hall.

In its decade of service, St. Martin's Place has served more than 400,000 meals, sponsored education and health sessions, established men's and women's groups, and performed spiritual work with many area residents.

### Clarification

Last week's page 3 story concerning physicians' testing of a drug that can be used to induce abortions during the early stages of pregnancy reported that Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester was conducting the tests. Although the study was approved by the Human Subjects Review Board of the University of Rochester Medical Center — of which which Strong Hospital is a part — and the research is being conducted by three members of the medical center's faculty, the physicians are carrying out this study separate from their official capacities at Strong.

## Obituary

### Father James P. Collins, 74; longtime chaplain

ELMIRA — Father James P. Collins, a former chaplain at Elmira Correctional Facility who also served as chaplain of several Elmira-area fire and police departments, died of bone cancer on Tuesday night, Aug. 16, 1994, at St. Joseph's Hospital. He was 74 years old.

"He was essentially a priest," said longtime friend Father L. James Callan, pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Irondequoit. "That was his whole focus. There was never any question about other interests or anything coming before that."

The priest was honored by Elmira's Mayor Howard F. Townsend last week when he ordered the Tier city's flags flown at half-staff for 30 days. Elmira's mayor commented that Father Collins was a well-known figure in his city for decades and that the priest had made many friends among government and law enforcement officials.

"He was sincere, very dedicated, and he spoke his piece," Townsend said. "Some people liked that, and some people didn't. I saw it as a quality."

A native of Rochester, Father Collins attended Immaculate Conception School before moving onto St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. He pursued graduate studies at Rutgers and St. Lawrence universities before he was ordained in March, 1945, at Sacred Heart

Cathedral.

From 1945-49, Father Collins was assistant pastor at St. Monica's Church in Rochester. He served from 1949-57 at Auburn's Holy Family Church, where he directed the 1952 building campaign for Mount Carmel High School.

His next assignment was as assistant pastor at St. John the Evangelist Church on Rochester's Humboldt Street from 1957-59.

But it was as chaplain of Elmira Reformatory from 1959-78 that Father Collins became a prominent state and even national figure. While serving in Elmira, he established an Alcoholics Anonymous program for the inmates along with a contact system for released prisoners.

Elected president of the American Catholic Correctional Chaplains Association in 1969, he also served terms as president of the American Correctional Chaplains Association and as president of the New York State Department of Correctional Chaplains Association.

Father Collins was recognized in the aftermath of the 1971 Attica uprising for severely criticizing a statement issued by retired Rochester Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and Episcopal Bishop Robert R. Spears Jr. as "unrealistic, penologically ignorant and at least implicitly slanderous and libelous to correction officials of

the state."

The two bishops had called for the state to implement 28 points contained in an agreement between prisoners and correctional officials made before Attica was taken back by state police in a bloody riot that left 40 killed. According to several news articles from that era, regarding the bishops' statement, Father Collins said: "I'm afraid it presumes as fact that the motive for the riot was poor prison conditions, when in reality the true cause is to be found in Marxist revolution."

Father Collins retired from his chaplaincy duties in 1978, when he became pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Elmira, a position he held until he was transferred to Elmira's St. Anthony's Church where he served until 1990.

Father Collins is survived by his sisters, Margaret Owen and Jeane Toole of Rochester; a brother-in-law, George King of Delmar, N.Y.; and several nieces, nephews, grand nieces, grand nephews and cousins.

Father Callan celebrated a Mass of the High Priest for Father Collins on Friday night, Aug. 19, at St. Anthony's. Bishop Matthew H. Clark celebrated a Mass of the Resurrection at the Elmira church the following day.

Interment was in the priests' plot at Ss. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Elmira.

— Rob Cullivan

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