

Chicago priest lauds school program

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — Father George H. Clements had words of warning — and of praise — for an enthusiastic audience of more than 120 people gathered Sept. 12 at St. Monica's Church for the start of an innovative program at St. Monica's School.

"I know it's not going to be easy," the Chicago priest said. "I know there are going to be people in Rochester who are going to tell you this is a lot of nonsense."

But, in citing the gospel story of Jesus speaking to the elders in the Temple while his parents searched for him, Father Clements told the audience, "You are about your father's business, and your father's business, of course, is we must take care of all our children. That's why we are willing to go through all of this — because they are our children."

Father Clements visited the Genesee

Street church and school for the first parent-teacher conference kicking off a program he pioneered at Holy Angels Catholic School in Chicago.

Under the program, parents and teachers work together in educating the children. School parents sign contracts under which they agree, among other things, to attend 10 mandatory parent-teacher nights, and to participate in worship services at the church of their choice every Sunday. Parents also can't fall behind on tuition payments. Failure to fulfill these and a number of other requirements will result in the automatic expulsion of any of their children attending St. Monica School.

When Father Clements started the program at Holy Angels in 1969, the inner-city school's enrollment had fallen to 150. Today, the Chicago Catholic school boasts a student body of more than 1,300. One thousand more are on a waiting list. More than 80 percent of the graduates go on to higher education.

Father Clements visited Rochester to speak to Rotary Club members about a new program he was launching to combat drugs, and was fortuitously able to take part in the opening parent-teacher conference at St. Monica School.

During a question-and-answer session following his brief address Monday night, Father Clements acknowledged that the program's first few years at Holy Angels were difficult. People dropped out of the program, and some students were expelled because their parents didn't fulfill certain obligations.

"But when they saw we were really serious, it started to turn around," Father Clements said.

David Tucker was so impressed with the program that he enrolled his daughter, Deanna, in St. Monica's pre-kindergarten program.

"We liked what we saw, and the people," Tucker said. "I want to make sure she's in an environment where the teachers care for her."



Corpus Christi lands Father Girzone for talk

ROCHESTER — Father Joseph Girzone, author of "Joshua," "Joshua and the Children," "The Shepherd" and "Never Alone," will speak at Corpus Christi Church, 864 E. Main St., this Tuesday, Sept. 20, at 7 p.m.

In addition to his other books, Father Girzone has written "Kara, the Lonely Falcon," "Gloria, A Diary of a Teenage Girl," and "Who Will Teach Me?" He served as a priest of the Albany diocese until he retired from administrative duties in 1980 due to ill health. He subsequently developed a ministry of writing and lecturing.

For information on Father Girzone's visit, call 716/325-2424.

CUF schedules conference in Rochester next weekend

ROCHESTER — The western New York chapter of Catholics United for the Faith will hold its annual conference Sept. 23-24.

This year's event, which kicks off Friday with a 6 p.m. social hour followed by a banquet dinner at The Party House, 677 Beahan Road, is celebrating the International Year of the Family and the new Catholic catechism. The convention moves to St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 4536 St. Paul Blvd., on Saturday with a 9:30 a.m. Mass followed by refreshments and the remainder of the conference beginning at 10:30 a.m.

The gathering will feature three well-known speakers: Father George William Rutler, a priest from the New York archdiocese as well as an author and lecturer who appears on the Eternal Word Television Network (he has also served as chaplain to Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity); Dr. Alice Von Hildebrand, author, philosopher and an expert on Pope Paul VI's encyclical *Humanae Vitae*; and Father Robert J. Fox, author, lecturer and founder of the Fatima Family Apostolate.

Some conference proceeds will go to Archangel School, a private institution located at 1612 Buffalo Road in Gates.

Tickets are \$30 per person or \$50 per couple. For details, call Michael Macaluso, 716/425-4333 (days); Michael Gallagher, 716/436-9006 (days); or 248-9094 (evenings).



Provided photo

Class of 1944 to reunite

St. Boniface's class of 1944 will celebrate its 50th reunion Oct. 15 with school tours from 3 to 5 p.m., a 5 p.m. Mass, and a cash bar and dinner at the University of Rochester Faculty Club River Campus, beginning at 6 p.m. For details, contact June Hoff Reynolds, 716/663-3703, or Marge Kearns, 716/271-2189.

President of Catholic Charities to tour diocese

ROCHESTER — Father Fred Kammer, SJ, president of Catholic Charities U.S.A., is scheduled to tour the Rochester diocese Sept. 16-17 to meet with diocesan and regional Catholic Charities officials.

In addition to discussing the nature and history of the Catholic Charities' movement, Father Kammer will address ties between local offices and the national organization.

At noon on Sept. 16, Father Kammer will visit Hobart and William Smith col-

leges in Geneva to speak with staff and board members of Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes Social Ministry.

Later that day, Father Kammer is scheduled to meet at 3 p.m. with staff of the Catholic Charities Community Residence Services at Catholic Family Center, 25 Franklin St., at 3 p.m.

Father Kammer is scheduled to meet with members of the diocesan board of Catholic Charities at 10 a.m. Sept. 17 at the Catholic Family Center.

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St. Bridget's will hold benefit walk Sept. 25

ROCHESTER — St. Bridget's Church, 175 St. Bridget's Drive, is sponsoring a fundraising walk on Sunday, Sept. 25, at 1:15 p.m.

The sidewalks-only route will run from St. Bridget's Drive to North Clinton Avenue, turn left on Upper Falls Boulevard, right onto St. Paul Street, to Seneca Park Zoo, and back to the church.

All proceeds from the walk — which is open to the public — will benefit St. Bridget's, celebrating its 140th anniversary this year.

For information, call Father Anthony P. Mugavero, pastor, at 716/454-4236, or Dolly Lauria at 426-6636.

Elmira-based hospice seeks \$45,000 in funds

ELMIRA — Southern Tier Hospice has begun its annual fundraising campaign, "Friends of Hospice."

The hospice — which serves terminally ill patients and their families in Chemung, Steuben and Schuyler counties — has set a goal of \$45,000 for the 1994 campaign.

To make a donation or learn more about Southern Tier Hospice, call 607/734-1570 or write to the hospice at 244 W. Water St., Elmira, 14901.