

College marks its 70th year

PITTSFORD — A solid balance of strong tradition and progressive change will be celebrated when Nazareth College of Rochester celebrates its 70th anniversary with a full slate of alumni activities this coming Friday and Saturday, Sept. 23-24.

The college was founded Sept. 24, 1924, when 25 Catholic women began their pursuit of liberal-arts degrees in a 16-room structure on Rochester's Lake Avenue. In 1942 the Sisters of St. Joseph moved the college to its current location, 4245 East Ave., on the grounds of that religious order's motherhouse. At that time, Nazareth's enrollment totaled approximately 400 women.

Widespread expansion occurred over the next several years, both for the campus facilities and through the programs offered. By 1965 more than 1,000 full-time students were enrolled, with half residing in campus dormitories.

Significant contemporary developments for the college have been plentiful in recent years: the Sisters of St. Joseph's decision to permit lay people to serve on Nazareth's board of trustees (1964); governance of the college passing from the Sisters of St. Joseph to an independent board (1971); the institution of master's programs and full-time male undergraduate students (1971); and the beginning of a formal program for men's and women's intercollegiate athletics (1977).

Currently, the college features 18 buildings on its 75-acre campus. Nazareth's 1994-95 enrollment encompasses approximately 1,700 full- and part-time students as well as nearly 1,000 graduate students. Seventy percent of the student body is female, and 93 percent of the college's enrollment is made up of New York state residents.

The Nazareth faculty is comprised of more than 100 full-time members, as well as 50 adjunct instructors, offering liberal-arts curricula in nearly 40 bachelor's-degree and 12 master's-degree fields of study.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer



Chili parish turns 140

Parishioners of St. Pius the Tenth Church celebrated the Chili parish's 140th anniversary, along with their school's 40 years of service, with special activities Sept. 16. Father Gerald T. Conner, pastor, celebrated a prayer service for students, faculty, staff, families and friends of the parish. The service included songs, prayers and readings emphasizing gratitude for Catholic education. (Above) Father Conner speaks with school students. (Left) Faculty and staff members hold their hands out

Catholic Charities USA president renews ties to diocese

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

Father Fred Kammer, SJ, president of Catholic Charities USA, toured the Rochester diocese Sept. 16-17 to speak at a series of meetings with staff and board members of diocesan Catholic Charities and its regional offices.

The meetings were intended to provide local leaders in the diocese with an overview of the national organization, to examine ties between the local affiliates and the national body, and to explore some of the pressures and challenges the national organization and the local bodies are facing, Father Kammer explained in a telephone interview.

"The roots of the mission of Catholic Charities go back to the Scriptures and the ministry of Jesus," noted Father Kammer, who has been president of the national organization since 1992.

That mission has included such services as providing food, shelter, counseling, pregnancy counseling, adoption, treatment for drugs and alcohol, and refugee and immigration assistance.

These services come under three general areas Catholic Charities addresses, Father Kammer continued. Those areas are direct service, advocacy on behalf of the poor and needy, and calling the local church communities to greater involvement in Catholic Charities' activities.

Father Kammer noted that one of the recent trends confronting Catholic Charities agencies across the country is that

needs have increased. In 1981, he said, Catholic Charities agencies assisted some three million people. By 1992, that number had grown to 14 million.

In addition, the areas in which Catholic Charities agencies serve people continues to evolve, the priest added. In 1981, he said, the organization was not involved with soup kitchens. Today, he said, Catholic Charities is affiliated with some 300 kitchens.

At the same time, Father Kammer cautioned, services Catholic Charities provide have to help people find ways to help themselves. "It's never been just a hand-out. We really have a goal of them taking control of their own lives."

These growing demands, Father Kammer said, have put a financial burden on local agencies, forcing staff and board members to make some difficult choices in terms of services they can provide.

Meanwhile, national and local organizations have had to contend with and respond to government actions affecting their services. He cited Catholic Charities' successful effort earlier this year to block new regulations for the federal Emergency Food and Shelter Board program that would have required food programs and soup kitchens to screen clients' immigration status.

Hence visits such as the one last week to the Rochester diocese help him as head of Catholic Charities to become aware of how local organizations are dealing with problems, and to share how other local agencies are attempting to

address many similar issues.

The future direction of the organization's services was another reason for Father Kammer's visit. It is part of a three-year planning process called Vision 2000, which the national organization is now undergoing.

Father Kammer reported that a committee has spent the past year meeting Catholic Charities members and studying future directions for the organization. That committee, he said, is preparing a report with "eight key themes that shape the future of Catholic Charities."

The report will be released at Catholic Charities' annual meeting, slated for Sept. 30-Oct. 2 in Spokane, Wash. A year of further discussion is planned, lead-

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