

# Museum honors Hispanic heritage



Wendy Longlade/Photo intern

A musical 'Caribbean Cruise' marked Hispanic Heritage Month at The Strong Museum in Rochester Sept. 25. The dance ensemble Movidá, which features six dancers and two percussionists, performed dances such as La Plena from Puerto Rico, the Rhumba and Salsa from Cuba, and the Merengue from the Dominican Republic. (Photo at left) Aida Veras performs La Plena; (right photo) Clenita Thomas (left), Yolanda Ríos, and Athena Mañon Vázquez perform the Salsa.

# CUF speakers attack secularism

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

EAST ROCHESTER — The Catholic Church must be a bulwark protecting families and traditional morality from secularism and radical feminism, according to three speakers featured at the 1994 Western N.Y. Catholics United for the Faith Conference.

The conference took place last Friday, Sept. 23, at The Party House, 677 Beahan Road, and Saturday, Sept. 24 at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 4536 St. Paul Blvd. The gathering was slated to celebrate 1994 as the "International Year of the Family," and to mark the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

According to Mike Macaluso, whose wife, Dorothy, is CUF's chapter chairman, 275 people attended the conference on Friday night, while Saturday's events drew 300.

Prior to Friday night events, the conference's keynote speakers held a press conference in the Macaluso's home at 7 Harwood Lane.

Father George William Rutler, STD, a priest of the New York archdiocese, serves as national chaplain of Legatus, a retreat and conference organization for Catholic chief executive officers and their spouses.

A noted convert from Anglicanism, he pointed out that both in Great Britain and in the United States, his former church's decision to ordain women has begun to drive Episcopalians and Anglicans into the Catholic Church.

"In June, I preached in Dallas, Texas, to a whole (Episcopal) parish which has converted en masse to Catholicism," he said.

He added that the ordination of women constitutes the summation of a pit of errors into which his former church fell and into which the Catholic Church may be tempted to fall, errors such as the approval or tolerance of abortion, divorce and homosexuality.

"We've been preaching peace and justice without requiring people to confess their sins and become saints," he said of the church. "We haven't made honest demands of the people. We tell people they can be pro-choice. Well, yes, we can choose to go to hell."

The priest explained that secularism

— the belief that the world is the totality of reality — poses today's greatest threat to the church. Only faith in Christ, and not in money, power, information or pleasure, can save humanity, he stressed.

"The church must convert people to the essential truth that we live in the world but not of it," Father Rutler concluded.

Should the church fail to do its job of converting people to that truth, Catholics are liable to eventually embrace secularism through a three-stage process, according to Dr. Alice von Hildebrand, author, lecturer, and expert on the papal encyclical *Humanae Vitae*.

The first stage starts when a Catholic begins to pay lip service to the supernatural by rejecting the demands of the cross, she said.

"It's a Sunday Catholicism, but on Monday, you live like everyone else," von Hildebrand remarked.

In the second stage, a Catholic begins to water down the church's teachings — "to turn wine into water" — she said, adding that this tendency manifests itself in an admiration for people's abilities rather than their fidelity to the church.

"You praise people because they're efficient, successful, witty," she said. "It's like saying St. Paul was such a remarkable man because he's a fine tent maker."

The third stage ends in revolt against the church, where a former believer openly attacks the pope's authority and the church's dogma, she said.

To illustrate this point, she noted that looking at the church and its history from a purely secularist point of view, an observer could agree with feminist critics that the church has kept women out of power and in the background. Yet, if the observer chooses to see the church from a supernatural point of view, that conclusion is reversed, with women appearing to have an exalted place in the history of Christianity, she said.

For example, Scripture records that women stood at the foot of Christ's cross, and the Lord first appeared to Mary Magdalene after He rose from the dead, she said, citing numerous other instances in which women — and not men — appear at important moments in salvation's story.

"You start feeling sorry for the men,"

she joked.

The ultimate bulwark against secularism and the attacks on the faith presented by today's world is the family, commented Father Robert J. Fox, founder and director of the Family Fatima Apostolate, established with the encouragement of the Pontifical Council for the Laity in the mid-1980s. Father Fox has also produced shows for the Eternal Word Television Network.

Pope John Paul II has encouraged each Catholic family to become "a little church, a domestic church," Father Fox said, adding that the church's new catechism stresses the importance of the family in nurturing its members' faith.

In Poland, for example, under communist rule, families catechized their children and other families, he said, keeping the faith alive despite government repression. Similarly, Catholic families and couples in this country should meet regularly to pray and study with one another and encourage each other in the faith, he said.

During her reported appearances at Fatima, Portugal, the Blessed Virgin Mary stressed the need for education in the essentials of the faith — a desire fulfilled by the new catechism, he said. Father Fox added that the final vision at Fatima consisted of St. Joseph blessing the world with Mary and Jesus by his side, a vision many Fatima devotees now see as a call for the family's sanctification.

"We've got to save the faith through the family," he said.

EDITORS' NOTE — For information on the Fatima Family Apostolate, write Father Robert J. Fox, Box 158, Alexandria, S.D. 57311-0158.

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# Applications available for CHD grants

Application materials for national grants from the 1995 Campaign for Human Development are currently available from the Rochester diocese.

CHD funds projects that enable people of all races, creeds, geographic regions and backgrounds to work together for long-range solutions to poverty in the areas of social and economic development, housing, health, legal aid, education and communication.

CHD makes grants to groups in which those who benefit from the project have the dominant voice in its planning, implementation and policy-making.

Projects must meet CHD guidelines and must be controlled by groups whose membership is at least 50 percent involuntarily low-income. Especially sought are innovative projects which address the basic causes of poverty by effecting changes in laws, policies or institutions, and projects designed to develop economic strength and political power within low-income communities.

Grant requests are typically more than \$10,000; the average national grant size is \$28,800.

The average size of last year's grants was \$32,000. The Worker Ownership Resource Center in Geneva Sept. 7 was awarded a \$75,000 capacity building grant for its work in developing small businesses. WORC was one of only five organizations to receive grants of \$70,000 or more.

The U.S. bishops established CHD in 1970 to combat domestic poverty. A total of \$7.4 million was given out to 225 community-based projects last year.

All groups interested in applying for a grant are required to submit a pre-application by Nov. 1, 1994. Projects that meet the minimum criteria and guidelines will be encouraged to submit a full application by Jan. 31, 1995.

For pre-application forms and criteria, contact the following people in the diocese's three regions:

- Chris Wilkins, Finger Lakes Social Ministry, 110 Exchange St., Geneva, N.Y. 14456, or call 315/789-2686.
- Linda McAllister, Social Policy and Research, Catholic Family Center, 25 Franklin St., 7th floor, Rochester, N.Y. 14604, or call 716/262-7020.
- Kathy Dubel, Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier, 1700 College Ave., Elmira, N.Y. 14901, or call 607/734-9784.

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