

## Small links in the chain of life



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

As part of the the Finger Lakes Life Chain, (from right) Tim McMahon joined brothers Sam and Alan Jones and about 150 people from Finger Lakes-area churches in a peaceful demonstration commemorating Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 2. Participants lined Routes 5 and 20 in Geneva both eastbound and westbound to assert their opposition to abortion. The demonstration, marking its fourth year in the diocese, was held simultaneously in downtown Owego and along Rochester's East Avenue.

## Event to show prayer's role in crime fight

ROCHESTER — Elizabeth Dole, president of the American Red Cross and the wife of Sen. Minority Leader Robert Dole (R-Kan.), is scheduled to be the featured speaker next week when the Greater Rochester Christian Gathering hosts a prayer breakfast against violence.

The breakfast is slated to run from 8 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 15, at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center, 123 E. Main St.

According to Richard D. Boutros, president of the Greater Rochester Christian Gathering, the program will include prayer, religious songs and music by the Roberts Wesleyan College Community Orchestra and the Greater Rochester Christian Gathering Festival Chorus. In addition, Nate McFarland, who Boutros described as a "former major drug dealer in Rochester," will speak at the breakfast.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark is scheduled to attend the gathering, in which approximately 130 to 135 churches are scheduled to participate.

The breakfast's purpose, Boutros said, is not "to promote something new." Rather, he continued, the gathering is intended to help counter the growing violence in the Rochester community by "asking God's hand of mercy and guidance on our leaders and the people in our area, that God will direct them to the right judgment and right actions."

Tickets for the Oct. 15 prayer gathering cost \$10 for the general public, \$7 for students. Tickets can be obtained by sending a check — made out to "The Greater Rochester Christian Gathering" — to GRCC, Box 1041, Fairport N.Y. 14450.

## Regional delegates greet draft plan with enthusiasm

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — Between 800 and 900 delegates — pastors, parish staff members and parishioners — gathered in 11 regional meetings Oct. 1 to consider the draft version of the pastoral plan for implementing the Diocese of Rochester's Seventh Synod.

During the past year, the Synod Implementation Commission and the Pastoral Center Planning Team developed the plan as the means of implementing goals set for the diocese at the Oct. 1-3, 1993, General Synod.

According to Deacon Tom Cass, synod implementation director, feedback from the regional meetings will be used to prepare a final version of the pastoral plan. That version is to be considered by the Synod Implementation Commission during a Nov. 7 meeting at St. Dominic's Parish in Shortsville. Bishop Matthew H. Clark, who is part of the commission, is expected to approve and release the plan by Dec. 31 of this year.

Once approved, the plan will guide the diocese for the next five years.

Deacon Cass said that his observation and reports he has received of the regional meetings indicate that delegates

greeted the draft plan with enthusiasm.

"I think there was widespread acceptance of our draft plan," said Deacon Cass, who attended the regional meeting at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Newark Valley. Thus, he said, "what we are doing is fine tuning it, rather than making wholesale changes."

Comments from the regional meetings will be submitted to the Pastoral Center Planning Team and to the four analysis teams the plan's four goals. Those goals, developed from the five synod priorities, are: to form Catholics in beliefs, Catholic-morality and spirituality throughout life; to advocate for the consistent-life ethic; to recognize and value the dignity of women in church and society; and to promote the growth of small Christian communities. The

first goal incorporates two General Synod priorities: lifelong religious education and Catholic moral education.

At the regional gatherings, Deacon Cass reported, delegates were asked to consider which of the proposed action steps in the draft plan would best support them in their efforts to implement the Synod at the local level, and which additional steps they thought would help in this process. They also were asked how the Pastoral Center staff could best support them in these efforts.

In addition, parishes are being asked to submit by Feb. 1, 1995, reports of how they plan to begin implementing the Synod, so that the Pastoral Center budget can be developed in such a way as to help support those efforts.

The emphasis, Deacon Cass noted,

was on how parishes and local communities can implement the Synod, because that is where the work will take place.

"Saturday, we were passing the baton," Deacon Cass suggested, "in the sense that it is going to be the responsibility of parishes to implement the synod recommendations, with the Pastoral Center supporting them in that effort."

The entire synod process has emphasized the involvement of diocesan people in planning for the diocese's future, Deacon Cass observed.

"I had one person come up to me," the deacon reported, "and he wanted me to thank (Bishop Clark) for allowing the process to be so open, so participatory. To paraphrase him, he said the diocese is walking with us rather than giving us commands."

## Obituary

### Brother Martin Bak, OFM; served in Watkins Glen

—WATKINS GLEN — Brother Martin Bak, OFM, a member of the St. Anthony of Padua Residence in the Franciscan Order of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Province, died on Sept. 1, 1994, following a long illness. He was 75 years old.

Brother Martin was born in Warrenville, Ohio. He joined the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary order in 1940, professing his simple vows in 1945 and his solemn vows in 1948. For nearly his entire 54-year association with the province, he served as a boiler man and general maintenance man. In addition to St. Anthony of Padua, he served in communities in Cedar Lake, Ind.; Pu-

laski, Wis.; Sturtevant, Wis.; Pittsburgh, Pa.; Green Bay, Wis.; Philadelphia, Pa.; and Burlington, Wis.

Brother Martin lived twice at St. Anthony of Padua: from 1962-70 and from 1981 until his death. He was diagnosed with colon cancer in late 1989, yet as the disease worsened he opted to remain at the Watkins Glen residence rather than be transported to out-of-state nursing or retirement facilities.

"Thank you for giving me a choice that I could stay at Watkins Glen," he wrote in a May, 1994, letter to provincial minister Father Paul Reczek, OFM. "Here at St. Anthony's I mow the lawn and enjoy the peace and quiet. This gives

me a chance for meditation of our dear Lord's love for us. Also I forget my infirmities and watch so I don't run the mower into some old stump or tree. It's getting warm outdoors and it's a delight to be in the great outdoors which is like an open book without words."

A Mass of Christian Burial for Brother Martin was held on Sept. 3, 1994, at St. Mary of the Lake Church in Watkins Glen. Serving as concelebrants were Father Dr. Austin Budnick, OFM, superior of the St. Anthony Residence; Father Andrew J. Kalafsky, who also resides at St. Anthony; and St. Mary of the Lake pastor Father David L. Bonin. Interment was at the provincial cemetery in Pulaski, Wis.

## Correction

Caption information underneath last week's page 4 photo describing a fundraiser for St. Bridget's Church in Rochester needs to be clarified.

Participants walked 10 miles during the fundraiser. A portion of the proceeds will go to the church's operating expenses.