

Geneva program explores Mass

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

GENEVA — Future celebrants of Masses at St. Francis DeSales Church had best beware.

They will be watched with critical eyes.

But they will also likely find some people who participate in the Mass with added understanding and reverence.

The parish at 130 Exchange St. is offering an eight-part adult spirituality program which walks participants through and explains the purpose of each part of the Mass.

The program, based on the text, "Eucharist!," is being led by Deacon Steven Carroll, pastoral associate, and his wife, Barbara Carroll, diocesan coordinator for sacramental catechesis. The program's aim is to help fulfill the synod goal of lifelong religious education, and to respond to needs voiced by parishioners for adult education and spiritual formation.

On Nov. 16, some 18 people met with the couple to study the prayers of the faithful, preparation of the altar, and presentation of the gifts.

The two-hour session mixed prayer, discussion and hands-on activities.

Participants also discussed their reactions to the readings from the previous Sunday, which they had discussed during the program's last session.

"It was like an old friend," Joan Gilbert observed of the readings. "I paid a lot of attention to it."

And Lynn Vistocco noted, "I was a lot more critical of the person reading."

"I think the one thing I learned, I pay more attention to the Gospel now," observed Dorothy DeBacco.

The Carrolls decided to present the program after received numerous requests from parishioners, Deacon Carroll reported.

"When I came here, what was already



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer
Lynn Vistocco participated in a Nov. 16 spirituality program at Geneva's St. Francis DeSales Church.

surfacing in the parish was a need for spiritual programs of all natures," he observed. "It also surfaced very much in the synod process."

The first four sessions covered the entrance song through the greeting; the penitential rite through the opening prayer; the readings through the profession of faith; and general intercessions through prayer over the gifts.

As part of the Nov. 16 session, participants discussed the prayers of the faithful, and what the gifts symbolize.

"It's our time to respond to what we heard in the Word," Barbara Carroll said of the prayers of the faithful. "Whatever the readings are, they make us more aware of how we are called to live."

People were then asked to reflect on needs they had, and for each of them to share this need with another person. The other person articulated that need in prayer form to the group.

The session then proceeded to a discussion about the gifts of bread and wine, and the prayers over those gifts. Barbara Carroll noted that the gifts represent the community.

"As that bread and wine is brought forward, we are bringing ourselves," she said. "We are that bread, we are that wine, that is going to be blessed."

The session continued with people praying over each other one-by-one in the sacristy, and concluded with a song.

Many of the participants voiced their enthusiasm for the program.

"I think we've learned an awful lot about the Mass," said Mary Bertino. "We learned how to really attend the Mass and what is going on."

DeBacco noted that when she converted to Catholicism some some 40 years ago, the Mass was in Latin and she didn't understand everything that was happening.

"Even though I love the church, and I love the faith, there's a great deal I don't know," DeBacco acknowledged. But the program, "really teaches us to know more about the Mass. When I come to church now, I feel much closer to God," she added.

"It just increases our appreciation of the Mass," Gilbert observed. "It explains all those things we've taken for granted for all these years."

The program is scheduled to resume during Lent with four more sessions. Deacon Carroll said he also plans to offer it to people going through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, and to offer the series again for St. Francis DeSales parishioners.

"It's going to be ongoing," he predicted. "We'll be offering it yearly."

And the couple would like to see other parishes make use of the program.

"We're trying to encourage parishes to do things like this," observed Barbara Carroll. "It's in line with the synod recommendations for lifelong religious education."

Fr. Cadoretti to talk at...

Father Curt Cadoretti, of the John Henry Newman Center, professor of religious studies at the University of Rochester, is scheduled to speak about "Liberation Theology and the American Church: Community, Confrontation and Challenge," Nov. 28, at 7:30 p.m. Father Cadoretti is pastor of the Colgate Rochester Divinity School auditorium, 1100 S. Goodman St., is being sponsored by St. Bernard's Institute.

A graduate of the University of Chicago, the Marquette School of Theology and the University of Toronto (where he did his doctoral studies), Father Cadoretti has worked teaching at several colleges and universities in the United States with a special emphasis on the history and culture of the Americas.

Correction

A reporting error resulted in the misidentification of a woman religious who was interviewed in the Oct. 21 issue for a page 4 story titled, "Diocesan agencies try to fight domestic abuse." Sister Alicia Schur is a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester. We regret the error.

Catholic Charities begins trial ministry in Livingston

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

MOUNT MORRIS — A new diocesan social-ministry office could be permanently added for Livingston County by the end of next summer.

Livingston County Catholic Charities began operation as a one-year pilot program in late August. This service is an outgrowth of Livingston County Rural Outreach, which began nearly two years ago as a Catholic Family Center project.

Currently, this outreach ministry operates out of St. Patrick's Church, 46 Stanley St., under its original director, Sister Nancy O'Brien, RSM. Livingston County Rural Outreach is now considered an umbrella organization of Livingston County Catholic Charities.

Maurice J. Tierney, retired associate

director of diocesan social ministry, is also helping guide the project. He serves as staff director to a steering committee charged with implementing the new ministry's planning and development process. Tierney is based at St. Mary's Church in Dansville.

Funding for the one-year program, totaling approximately \$17,500 for operating expenses, has been appropriated by the diocesan Catholic Charities board of directors.

According to James Dollard, who serves as steering-committee chairman, the ministry hopes to secure new office space within a month — most likely in Mount Morris.

In addition, Dollard said, "our goal is to put it in good standing (as a permanent operation) by August. We're excited about the opportunity."

The pilot program was established last summer following a study by Tierney examining the effectiveness of efforts by diocesan Catholic Charities in Livingston and Steuben counties.


Dollard credited the work of Livingston County Rural Outreach for raising "awareness of the rural poor and rural needs" in these regions.

Alcoholism, domestic abuse, teenage pregnancy and home repairs are some of the major problems that Livingston County Catholic Charities will address, Dollard said. While noting that all communities grapple with problems such as these, he added that such issues are heightened in rural settings because of the considerable travel distances required to receive support services. And, in many cases, residents lack the transportation means to get help.

Although Tierney's study covered two counties, the new program will be limited to Livingston County.

"We decided we already had a wonderful organizational presence in Steuben County," explained Jack Balinsky, director of diocesan Catholic Charities. Balinsky cited Hornell's St. James Mercy Hospital, Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier, and Kinship Family and Youth Services — a Catholic Charities-affiliated service which operates in Hornell and Bath — as examples of agencies already in place to meet problems faced by Steuben residents.


EDITORS' NOTE: Emergency-service calls for Livingston County Catholic Charities should be directed to Sister Nancy O'Brien, RSM, at 716/658-4466. For referral calls and additional information, call Maurice Tierney at 335-2700.



Southview Physical Therapy and Sports Rehabilitation

You Can Feel the Difference!

- Neck & Shoulder Pain
- Low Back Symptoms
- Tendonitis & Bursitis
- Knee Problems
- TMJ Pain
- Motor Vehicle Injuries
- Work Related Injuries



Marian Carracino, PT
Director

CALL
271-3380
for information

WESTFALL PROFESSIONAL PARK • 880 WESTFALL ROAD, SUITE 4



Imported Specialties • Seafood and Smoked Fish

PITTSFORD FISH MARKET

Pittsford Colony Plaza - 3400 Monroe Avenue



SPECIALTY SAUSAGES & EUROPEAN STYLE COLD CUTS

FOR ALL YOUR SEAFOOD NEEDS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

OPEN 7 DAYS • 381-8190

DAILY SPECIALS ON OUR FRESH & SMOKED FISH

Hot Fish to Go
Nick Vasalos

Fresh Fish • Live Lobster
Frozen Seafood