

Knights work to pay \$81,000 debt

ROCHESTER — The Finger Lakes Chapter of the the Knights of Columbus is seeking to pay off an \$81,000 debt the organization incurred from sponsoring last July's Rochester Marian Conference.

The conference took place July 22-24 at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center, 123 E. Main St.

According to Arthur J. Harris, chapter president, poor paid attendance at the conference is the main reason for the shortfall.

"We didn't have the turnout at the door we expected," Harris said.

Organizers had anticipated between 2,000 and 3,000 people to attend the conference. And even though an estimated 3,500 people did attend the weekend event, Harris said the paid attendance was only 1,300.

Harris speculated that some of the debt may have stemmed from volunteers leaving admission tables unattended for short times. Therefore, some people who entered the convention center did so without paying admission, he said.

Harris added that, fortunately for the Knights, creditors have been understanding of the organization's predicament. Meanwhile, the 39 councils comprising the Finger Lakes Chapter of the Knights of Columbus have all agreed to raise the outstanding sum through various fundraising endeavors, he said.

Among fundraising efforts are a lottery calendar, raffles, appeals and pancake breakfasts. And some councils have redirected money from their regular fundraising events as well.

"It's the strongest flare of unity I've seen among the Knights," said Harris, who is also hoping for assistance from



File photo
Jane Gefell, a parishioner at St. Rita's Church in Webster, July 22 crowns the statue of Mary during the Marian conference's opening ceremonies at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center.

other groups who benefited from the event.

Despite the problems caused by the debt, Harris said the Knights would like to sponsor the Marian event again — perhaps in 1996. This time, Harris said, the Knights will work more closely with convention center staff, which will run admission tables.

"It was a beautiful spiritual uplift," Harris said. "So many people are saying when are we going to do it again."

— Lee Strong

Vandals destroy statue of Virgin at K of C hall

GENEVA — Vandals destroyed the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary that stood in front of the Knights of Columbus Council hall at 39 Milton St. It marked the second such attack on the statue in the last 18 months.

Mark Bauer, president of the board of directors of Council #272, discovered the vandalism Nov. 22. After stopping by the hall after work, Bauer promptly reported the vandalism to the police when he found the statue broken into four pieces.

Bauer figured that the damage took place some time between Nov. 20-22.

"There's no rhyme or reason to it," Bauer said. "Everybody's upset about it, but there's nothing we can do."

In an earlier attack, the statue's head and hands were broken off, but the Knights were able to repair it last July, Bauer reported. This time, however, he said the statue is beyond repair.

Grand Knight Scott Hamula pointed out that the statue was located in an area easily accessible to the public, not-

ing that there is a great deal of pedestrian traffic along the street in front of the hall. Still, he remains puzzled by the attack.

"It's bad enough that property gets destroyed," Hamula observed. "Unfortunately, it happened to be Mary in this case."

The late Madeline Miller donated the statue to the Knights of Columbus in honor of their father, John Malone, a former Knight, and other members of her family.

Hamula said the Knights plan to buy a new statue and will likely place it somewhere with less public accessibility. They hope insurance will pay part of the estimated \$1,200 to \$1,300 the new statue will cost.

Still, the old statue will be missed, Bauer said.

"It's going to seem funny to go into that place and not have it standing there," Bauer said.

— Lee Strong

Episcopal diocese reaffirms covenant

ROCHESTER — Delegates who gathered last month for the 63rd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester voted to reaffirm the diocese's covenant relationship with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester.

Convention participants Nov. 11-12 approved a resolution to "express our commitment to nurture our relationship with the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, and to pray for Bishop Matthew H. Clark and for the clergy and people of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester."

The two dioceses originally signed the covenant May 22, 1988. In part, the agreement calls for the two dioceses to work together whenever possible; to engage in dialogue about theological and doctrinal issues; and to pray for both bishops — Matthew H. Clark and William G. Burrill.

Bishop Clark responded to the convention's recent resolution in a letter dated Dec. 5, when he wrote: "I am deeply touched by this renewed commitment to nurture the friendly and cooperative relationship between our dioceses, and I welcome the pledge of

prayer. Be assured that I and the Roman Catholic community share that commitment to cooperation and prayer for one another."

Deacon Brian McNulty, coordinator of the diocesan Department of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, noted that the covenant was never intended to be "big and flashy" or to draw a lot of attention.

Instead, the covenant was meant to provide "a vehicle to help live out (ecumenism)," Deacon McNulty noted. He added that many parishes are quietly promoting the covenant through cooperative efforts and joint prayer services.

As for Roman Catholic renewal of the covenant, Deacon McNulty reported that the diocese does not have an annual gathering similar to that of the Episcopal convention. He noted, however, that the Rochester Catholic diocese will take part in a Jan. 22, 1995 prayer service at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension, 1360 Lake Ave., as part of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, marked annually from Jan. 18-25.

— Lee Strong

Red Cross announces new hours for donors

ROCHESTER — To meet the growing need for blood in the Rochester area, the American Red Cross branch at 50 Prince St. has changed its hours for blood donors.

Volunteer donations may be made during the following hours: Monday — 12:20-4 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursday — 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. and 4-7:20 p.m.; Friday — 8:30-11:30 a.m.

Donation hours will remain the same at the Red Cross branches in Greece, 2590 Ridge Road W. (Buckman's Plaza); and Perinton, 6605 Pittsford-Palmira Road (Blackwatch Office Park). The Greece center is open Tuesday through Thursday from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; and the Perinton facility is open Monday and Wednesday from 4-8 p.m. and Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. To schedule an appointment at any of these facilities, call 1-800/272-4543.

People donating for themselves in preparation for elective surgery at either the Greece, Perinton or Rochester facility should do so by calling 716/256-4119. Expanded hours of operation are now available in Greece and Perinton.

Rochester church will host Kwanzaa Dec. 26

ROCHESTER — The diocesan Office of Black Ministries is sponsoring a Kwanzaa prayer service on Monday, Dec. 26, at 7 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 445 Frederick Douglass St.

Kwanzaa, the Swahili word for "first fruits," was created to introduce and reinforce such basic African values as family, community and African culture, and is a time to give thanks.

For information, call Jacquelyn Dobson, 716/328-3210, or Father Michael Upson, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church at 325-3893.

CFC program assisting seniors seeks visitors

ROCHESTER — Catholic Family Center, 25 Franklin St., needs volunteers to assist senior citizens.

Duties would include grocery shopping, friendly visiting and rides to doctor appointments. Mileage reimbursement is available.

Call 716/262-7069 for details.

Agency providing relief for families needs help

EAST ROCHESTER — Respite Cares! needs volunteers for its various programs.

Volunteers would provide temporary relief to caregivers of family members who are afflicted by developmental disabilities, brain injuries or Alzheimer's disease.

For details, call Marilyn Curtis at 716/381-6550.

Mooney class is planning 10-year reunion for Aug.

The Cardinal Mooney High School class of 1985 is attempting to locate class members for its 10th-year reunion celebration to be held in August of 1995.

To update your current address, or if you know how to contact other classmates, call 716/581-0793 or 461-3483.

Arc seeking volunteers for swimming program

ROCHESTER — The Arc of Monroe County needs volunteers to assist with its swimming program.

The program will take place at the Al Sigi Center, 1000 Elmwood Ave., every Tuesday from 6 to 8 p.m., beginning this month and running through the spring of 1995.

Arc seeks normally sighted and other developmentally disabled individuals for details on volunteering, call Diane Bailey at 716/325-2023.