

Tier coalition seeking justice in the Balkans

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ELMIRA — Through a speakers' series and other activities, a Southern Tier peace organization is encouraging the public to take part in international efforts to foster justice and peace.

Known as "Peaceworks," the coalition comprises such Tier residents as educators, social workers, health-care professionals, human-service workers, clergy, parents and students. The group is based out of the Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier office, 1700 College Ave.

Beginning next week, Peaceworks will sponsor a series of lectures by important figures in the peace movement. The first guest lecture is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 10, when Michael Simmons, coordinator of the Philadelphia-based American Friends Service Committee, will make two appearances in Elmira.

Simmons, a peace-and-justice activist for the past 25 years, will lecture at noon at the First Baptist Church, 121 W. Church St; and at 7 p.m. at the Elmira College Campus Center. Both programs are free and open to the public.

Simmons' scheduled topic is the human-rights situation in the former Yugoslavia. He will examine historical background as well as current human-rights violations and grass-roots activism in that region to counter the abuses. Simmons will also suggest ways in which the international community can help.

The noontime program is the first in a series of Peaceworks-sponsored month-

ly forums to be presented in downtown Elmira. The evening session is being co-sponsored by Peaceworks and Elmira College's chapter of Amnesty International.

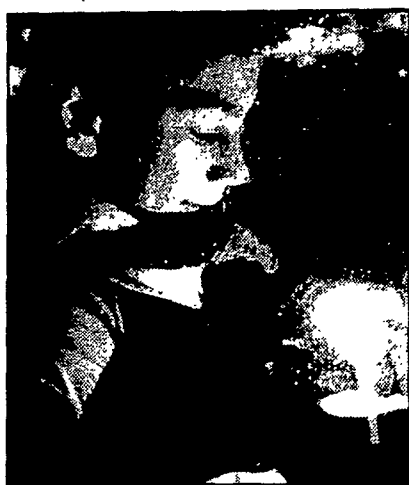
In addition to the speakers' series, Peaceworks is coordinating an effort to provide financial, material and moral support for grass-roots peace-making efforts in the former Yugoslavia.

Funds collected will enable overseas groups to purchase such materials as paper, videotapes, copying machines and books on conflict resolution. Recipient groups will be identified with the help of such international peace organizations as the International Fellowship of Reconciliation and the War Resisters League.

Joe Caparulo, a Peaceworks member who is helping to coordinate the fundraising project, said its chief purpose is "the publication and dissemination of materials for people who do not wish to be part of the conflict."

"The image of the Balkans is that there's this nationalistic frenzy where people are killing each other. But there are also people who want to enjoy the multiethnic diversity and live in harmony," Caparulo explained. "I'd say it's the majority of the people in (the former) Yugoslavia who want this."

Those interested in learning more about the speakers' series should call John Ball at (607) 535-7527 or Bob Shepard at 735-1939. Further information on the fundraising effort may be obtained by calling Caparulo at 732-1152 or Kathy Dubel at 734-9784.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Innocent prayer

Pro-life activists attended a Dec. 28 Mass at Rochester's Holy Name of Jesus Church before participating in a candlelight vigil outside Highland Hospital. (Above) Andrew Fredericks shields his candle from the wind while joining about 25 people in praying the rosary. The annual vigil links the feast of the Holy Innocents to abortion.

Ralph Reed to speak at brunch on Jan. 14

ROCHESTER — Dr. Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition, a grass-roots organization of Christians and Catholics that played a key role in several political victories in last November's election, will speak at the Crisis Pregnancy Centers' 14th anniversary brunch January 14.

The 9 a.m. brunch, which will take place at the Mapledale Party House, 1020 Maple St., is co-sponsored by the Greater Rochester Association of Evangelicals.

Crisis Pregnancy Centers offer services to women seeking an alternative to abortion, including free pregnancy tests; abortion education and alternatives; emergency housing; maternity and infant needs; adoption counseling; rape-crisis help; post-abortion care; referrals to a teen support group; and a speakers' bureau.

Hearing-impaired service is available by calling 1-800-662-1220-TDD.

Reservations are required. Please call 716/383-2189 or 232-3894.

Each adult will be asked to contribute \$7.95, each student, \$5. Larger contributions will be used to help the unborn.

CPCs' 24-hour hotline is 716/232-2350.

Obituary

Father Richard James Masciangelo, CPPS; former East Rochester pastor, dead at 52

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

GREECE — Father Richard James Masciangelo, CPPS, former pastor of St. Jerome's Church in East Rochester, died suddenly of a heart attack Monday, Dec. 19, 1994, at the age of 52.

A memorial Mass for Father Masciangelo is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. this Friday, Jan. 6, at St. Lawrence Church, 1000 N. Greece Road.

A native of Warren, Ohio, Father Masciangelo was born on June 28, 1942, to Yolanda Veri Masciangelo and the late Patrick Masciangelo. He came to Rochester in 1962, attending St. John Fisher College then St. Bernard's Seminary.

Father Masciangelo was incorporated into the Congregation of Missionaries of the Precious Blood on March 2, 1967, and was ordained a priest April 26, 1969.

Following ordination, Father Masciangelo served at a Canadian parish, then from 1971-74 as director of formation at the former Precious Blood Seminary in Rochester. From 1974-76, he served as pastor of St. Anthony's Parish in Rochester. He also served as assistant pastor at Most Precious Blood Church in 1981-82 and again in 1984-85.

Father Masciangelo was named pastor of St. Jerome's Church in 1985. He stepped down as pastor in June. He was noted for his dedication to the parish, his preaching and his attention to details.

"He was very committed to his work," observed Father John Colacino, CPPS, who occasionally lived at St. Jerome's rectory over the past three years.

Father Colacino added that the late priest "was very gentle, caring, low-key. People who knew him intimately enjoyed

his friendship and company."

One person who enjoyed the priest's friendship was Father Francis J. Falletta, pastor of Greece's St. Lawrence Church, where Father Masciangelo became parochial vicar in June, 1994.



"He had a very good sense of humor, Father Falletta said. "He could take as well as give a joke."

In addition to his mother, Father Masciangelo is survived by two brothers, a sister and their spouses: Nicholas and Lillian, and Ronald and Beth Masciangelo, and Diane and Wilbur Wilson; several nieces and nephews; and his fellow Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

A vigil service was held for Father Masciangelo on Wednesday, Dec. 21, at St. Jerome's Church. Mass of Christ the High Priest was celebrated at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Niles, Ohio, on Dec. 23.

Appeal's shortfall means more to fall through cracks

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

As of Dec. 30, this year's *Catholic Courier*/Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal has received \$51,709.85 from 1,044 donors.

At this time last year, the annual appeal had received \$53,049 from 1,119 donors. The falloff in contributions continues a general downward trend that has plagued the appeal for the last decade.

Money from the Christmas Appeal — which which was established in 1969 as a joint effort of this newspaper and Catholic Charities — is used year-round to help individuals facing emergency situations. Many of these individuals for a variety of reasons cannot be helped through other means; they are either not eligible for other assistance, or are waiting for aid to begin.

Money from the Christmas Appeal is used for such purposes as helping individuals and families pay utility bills, buying food and clothing, and resolving rent problems.

The money is distributed among the diocese's regional offices of Catholic Charities, diocesan Urban Services, and the Bishop Sheen Ecumenical Housing Foundation.

This year's decrease continues a downward trend that started after 1982, when 2,028 donors contributed \$81,421.81.

Judy Taylor, communications manager for diocesan Catholic Charities, noted that "people who have given are being very generous," but that the number of people donating to the appeal has decreased.

"If people who gave in previous years gave, we'd be back up where we were," Taylor noted.

Taylor pointed out that because Christmas Appeal monies are used year-round, contributions can be made at any time. But with the decreasing amount of donations, diocesan agencies are finding it harder to help people meet emergency needs.

"Every year our goal has been to bring in enough so we don't have to turn people away," Taylor said.

Donate to the Catholic Courier/Catholic Charities Christmas Appeal

Please use my donation to help a neighbor in need.


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