

Rochester parish to host Stephen ministry day

ROCHESTER — On Saturday, March 4, St. Bridget's Church, 175 St. Bridget's Drive, will host the Stephen Series Caring Ministry Workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Stephen Ministries, based in St. Louis, Mo., is a transdenominational Christian organization that provides training and administrative resources for congregations wishing to train lay people to serve as caring ministers.

The workshop presenter, Carol Zimmerman, is a former Stephen leader at Christ United Methodist Church in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., who now lives in Limo, Ohio.

The workshop's two presentations will cover "Ministry on Those Experiencing Grief" and "How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way."

The workshop is open to clergy, parish staff, lay leaders and all diocesan parishioners. For fee and registration information, call Rose Barrows or Father Anthony Mugaero at 716/454-4236.

Earned income credit available for millions

The Internal Revenue Service says that as many as three to four million families who are eligible for Earned Income Credit do not know about the credit or how to apply.

Earned Income Credit reduces the amount of taxes people owe if they meet certain criteria.

Eligibility criteria are:
(1) working person raising one child and earning less than \$23,755;
(2) working person raising more than one child and earning less than \$25,296;

(3) any person between the ages of 25 and 64, not raising children, but earning less than \$9,000.

For more information, call the IRS toll-free at 1-800-829-1040.

Widowed offered service

ROCHESTER — The Widowed Persons Service is an outreach program in which trained widowed volunteers offer support to newly widowed persons in more than 230 communities nationwide.

WPS helps the newly widowed not only recover from the trauma of a spouse's death, but also to rebuild their own lives. The most significant help a newly widowed person receives often comes from another widowed person.

If this outreach program could be of help to you or your loved ones, contact the WPS office at 716/671-3230.

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Obituary

Father Donald Murphy dies at 87

He enjoyed a long life, a real blessing after what Father Donald J. Murphy endured a half-century ago as a U.S. Army chaplain during World War II.

"He was an infantryman; he got socked all over the place. That's why he was such a famous chaplain. He took care of the sick and dying," noted Father John S. Hayes, who also served as an Army chaplain during the war.

Father Murphy, pastor emeritus of St. Pius X Church in Chili, died on Thursday, Feb. 16, 1995, at the U.S. Veterans' Hospital in Canandaigua after a long illness. He was 87 years old. Father Murphy had been retired from active diocesan duty since 1977.

Born and raised in Elmira, his home parish was St. Mary's on the Tier city's south side. He graduated from St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. He was ordained in June of 1937.

He was assistant pastor of Rochester's Immaculate Conception Church until he joined the Army in February of 1943. A member of the 13th AB and 90th Infantry, Father Murphy served in the Battle of the Bulge and was awarded Silver and Bronze Stars for gallantry in action.

Upon his return to the United States, Father Murphy between 1946 and 1954 was assistant pastor at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Irondequoit; a religion and history teacher at Aquinas Institute in Rochester; a chaplain at St.



Mary's Hospital in Rochester; assistant pastor at St. Vincent DePaul Church in Churchville; and pastor of St. Fechan Church, a mission of St. Pius X Church in Chili.

Father Murphy began his lengthiest assignment in 1954 when he founded and became pastor of St. Pius X Church in Chili. He retired from his pastorate at St. Pius X in 1977.

In his later years he enjoyed celebrating annual Masses at St. Fechan, which

is now part of the Genesee Country Museum in Mumfords.

Along with the strong ties he maintained at St. Fechan and St. Pius X, Father Murphy continued to enjoy his association with former military chaplains.

"We had a real camaraderie. It didn't matter if it was Army or Navy," said Father Hayes, a close friend of Father Murphy's since they attended St. Bernard's Seminary together in the 1930s.

Father Murphy is survived by his nephews, John and Cornelius Murphy; nieces, Kathleen Sullivan, Irene Murphy, Mary Elizabeth Stevens, Joann Loftus, Patricia Whitford and Rita Molinari; as well as great-nieces and nephews.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on Feb. 20 at St. Pius X Church. Bishop Dennis W. Hickey celebrated the Mass, and Father John A. Firpo, who grew up a member of St. Pius X Church and is now parochial vicar at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Greece, served as homilist. Interment will be at St. Pius X Cemetery in Chili.

Donations in Father Murphy's memory may be made to St. Pius X Church, 3032 Chili Ave., Rochester, N.Y., 14624.

— Mike Latona

Sister Rita Marie Colbert, SSND; former diocesan school teacher, 79

Sister Rita Marie Colbert, SSND, who taught at three diocesan Catholic schools during a career that spanned more than a half century, died on Thursday, Dec. 22, 1994, in Wilton, Conn. She was 79 years old.

A native of Roxbury, Mass., Sister Rita Marie professed her final vows as a School Sister of Notre Dame in 1937. She first came to the Rochester diocese when she taught at Holy Ghost School in Gates from 1945-48. Sister Rita Marie also taught at Rochester's Holy Family School

from 1951-53 and returned to the diocese in 1980 when she served as teacher and counselor at Bishop Kearney High School in Irondequoit until 1991.

A Mass of the Resurrection was held for Sister Rita Marie on Dec. 27, at the SSND Motherhouse Chapel in Wilton, Conn. Interment was at St. Mary's Cemetery in Bethel, Conn.

Donations in memory of Sister Rita Marie may be made to the SSND Development Fund, 345 Belden Hill Road, Wilton, Conn., 06897.

Sister Margaretta MacCarthy, SSJ; ex-teacher

PITTSFORD — Sister Margaretta MacCarthy, SSJ, a longtime teacher and guidance counselor in the Rochester diocese, died on Wednesday, Jan. 11, 1995, at the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary. She was 81 years old.

Sister Margaretta entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1930 from St. Mary's Church in Elmira. She was a graduate of Rochester's Nazareth Academy and Nazareth College, and earned her master's degree at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Among the schools in which she taught were Sacred Heart in Rochester; St. Francis de Sales in Geneva; St. Patrick's in Corning; and St. Augustine's in Rochester. She was also guidance counselor for several Elmira-based

Catholic schools, as well as the St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing in Elmira.

Sister Margaretta retired to the St. Joseph Convent motherhouse in 1981 and had resided at the SSJ infirmary since 1991.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Margaretta took place on Jan. 13. The principal celebrant was Father Michael Conboy, with Fathers Joseph Donovan, John Hayes and Donald Curtiss also participating. Interment was in the sisters' section of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester.

Sister Margaretta is survived by one sister, Sister Mary Lourdes, SSJ; nieces and nephews; and other sisters in the congregation of St. Joseph.

Fr. John Francis 'Urban' Snyder; novice director

PIFFARD — Father John Francis Snyder — known as Father Urban — died at the Abbey of the Genesee Jan. 25, 1995, at age 82.



Born April 7, 1912 in Louisville, Ky., Father Urban earned a master's degree in English literature and a law degree before entering Gethsemani Abbey in Gethsemani, Ky., in 1942. Assigned to assist him during his transition into monastic life was Thomas Merton, who had entered the abbey just five months earlier.

Father Urban served as the Kentucky community's novice director for a decade. In the mid-1950s, he became part of the community at Piffard. He left, however, to pursue studies in Rome in 1961, and worked at the order's generalate there from 1963-65.

In 1965, he was excused from the common life of the order due to health problems. He returned to the Abbey of the Genesee in 1992 because his care givers could no longer provide for his needs as he battled Alzheimer's disease. He remained at the abbey until his death.

Father Urban was buried in the Abbey of the Genesee's cemetery on Jan. 27.



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