

Noted author to speak on family's Irish past

ROCHESTER — Dr. Jerome P. Lysaught, a noted author and pediatrician, will speak on "History, Mystery and Odyssey: An Irish Family through its literature" at St. John Fisher College March 16. His talk will take place in Basil Hall, Room B-135 at 7:30 p.m.

Members of Lysaught's family have been writing books in Ireland for 500 years, going back to the days of Cromwell. Lysaught has authored, co-authored or edited 19 books; written 36 chapters in books and collections; and penned more than 100 articles in journals. He has received numerous awards and has held several editorial positions during his career.

He most recently served as director of the National Commission for the Study of Nursing and Nursing Education at the University of Rochester. He is currently professor of pediatrics at the university's School of Medicine and Dentistry; professor of nursing at the School of Nursing; and professor emeritus of education at the Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development.

The speech is free and open to the public. For information, call Murray Lynd at 716/381-9195; Bernard Hart at 227-3085; or Ted McGraw at 387-9116.

Social justice workshop set for Waterloo on March 25

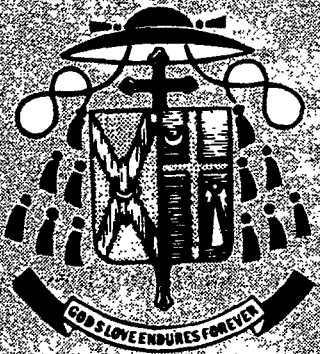
WATERLOO — Finger Lakes Social Ministry, a regional office of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Rochester, has scheduled a social-justice workshop for March 25, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at St. Mary's Church and School, 35 Center St.

The workshop will explore the consistent life ethic, one of the goals adopted in the Diocese of Rochester's recently released pastoral plan. The ethic connects such issues as war, abortion, euthanasia and the death penalty.

The keynote speaker will be Sister Patricia Schoelles, SSJ, president of St. Bernard's Institute. Workshops will offer practical training in such skills as adult education, migrant ministry, legislative advocacy and community organizing.

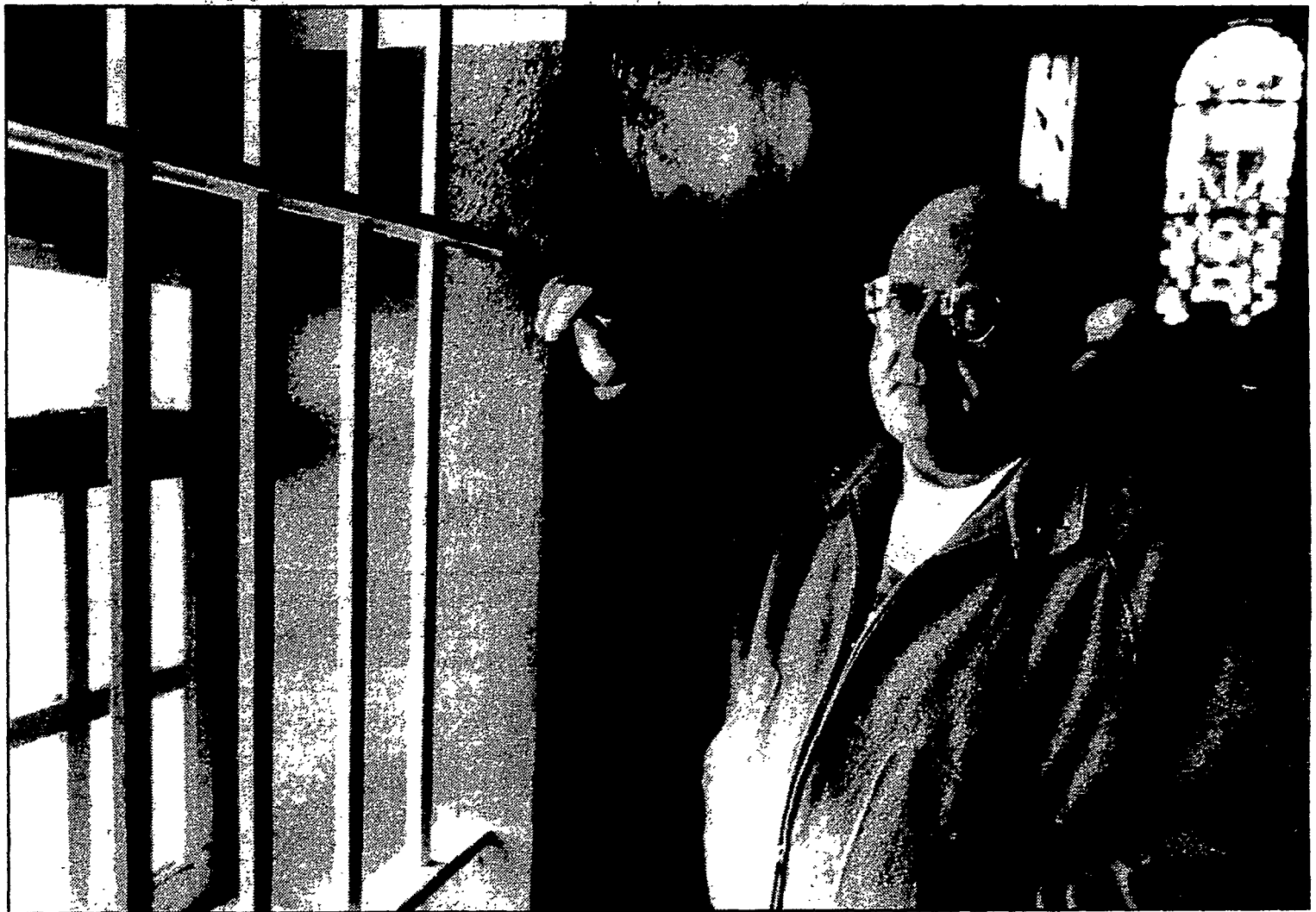
Cost per person for the program is \$14, which includes materials and lunch.

Registration is requested by March 20. For registration information, call the Finger Lakes Social Ministry at 315/789-2686 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.



Decree of Dispensation

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has granted a dispensation from the Lenten discipline of abstinence for all members of the Diocese of Rochester on Friday, March 17, 1995 (St. Patrick's Day). The official decree was dated March 8, 1995.



Above, Father Vincent P. Panepinto, prison chaplain at the Elmira Maximum-security Correctional Facility, pauses for a photo in the entrance to the prison chapel. At left, inmate Guido Rojas, who works as a clerk in Father Panepinto's office, discusses the need for prison chaplains.



Inmate Bruce Van Buren says prison chaplains help relieve the stress and tension associated with prison life.

Photos by
S. John Wilkin
Staff Photographer

Pataki rescinds move to axe chaplains

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

At the end of their Feb. 28 presentation to Gov. George Pataki, the Catholic bishops of New York state were allowed to speak out on any topic they deemed important. The bishops had gone to Albany to present their views on a series of social-policy issues now before the governor.

Auxiliary Bishop Anthony F. Mestice of the Archdiocese of New York saw the moment as his one and only opportunity to object, in person, to the governor's proposed firing of 84 out of 156 state prison chaplains.

In a phone interview from his archdiocesan residence, Bishop Mestice recalled that, much to his delighted surprise, the governor did not attempt to justify the proposed budget cut. Instead, he listened thoughtfully to the bishop's argument that chaplains were an essential service in New York's prisons.

"I kept talking and talking," remarked Bishop Mestice, chairman of the state's Catholic Chaplain Apostolate. "I knew (Pataki) was listening very attentively."

Pataki's response to Bishop Mestice's plea confirmed what the bishop thought the governor seemed to be thinking.

"He indicated that it probably was an error, and they probably would rescind it," Bishop Mestice remembered.

On Thursday, March 2, the governor



of our state prisons," Pataki spokesman Christopher Chichester remarked in a telephone interview from Albany.

In bland tones, Chichester stated what inmates and chaplains at Elmira Correctional Facility had stated far more colorfully when asked about the proposed chaplain terminations.

"They take (chaplains) out, they might as well bring the National Guard in," commented inmate John Brooks.

Brooks works as a clerk in the office of the Rev. Richard W. Elliot, a United Methodist minister who serves as the facility's Protestant chaplain.

Fellow inmates Bruce Van Buren and Guido Rojas, both Catholics, work as clerks in the office of Father Vincent P. Panepinto, Elmira's Catholic chaplain.

All three men spoke to the *Catholic Courier* in the maximum-security facility on the same day Bishop Mestice was lobbying Pataki on behalf of the chaplains.

The *Courier* also spoke to Father Panepinto, Catholic co-chaplain Peter Ladley, a layman; the Rev. Elliot; and the facility's Muslim chaplain, Imam 'Abdur-Rahim Muhammad.

All agreed that the chaplains provide a variety of services to the inmates — from worship services and religious education to bereavement counseling and crisis intervention.

Like Brooks, Van Buren and Rojas pointed out that the chaplains' presence

Continued on page 4