

Burglary may have been inside job

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Last week's burglary of a bingo-supply room at Holy Apostles Church — the second robbery involving a Rochester church's bingo game in just three weeks — may have been an inside job, according to police investigators and the city parish's pastor.

According to Father George P. Heyman, pastor of Holy Apostles/St. Anthony of Padua Parish Cluster, the July 5 burglary netted almost \$3,500 in cash and goods from the Austin Street church.

But the four people who knew the room's safe combination will have to wait sometime before police administer a polygraph test to determine whether any one of them knew anything about the break-in, a city police investigator said.

Father Heyman said \$3,280 in bingo, prize and concession monies — all of which was stored in the room's safe — was taken along with a two-way radio valued at almost \$200. The priest said the burglary occurred sometime between 1 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. in the back room of the parish school's kitchen. A church maintenance man who found the room in a state of disarray with its cabinets ransacked and supplies scattered about called 911, Father Heyman said.

Although the burglary was made to look like a break-in, Father Heyman said he suspected an inside job.

David Blaho, an investigator for the Rochester City Police, said because the city currently employs only one polygraph operator, he had not yet made plans to administer polygraph tests to the four people who knew the safe's combi-

nation.

"It's not an easy thing to do," he said of polygraphs.

Nonetheless, Blaho commented that the police will conduct the tests if they deem them necessary.

Father Heyman noted that he preferred that the case not come down to an arrest and conviction. He stated that if all the stolen money and the camera were returned soon, the parish would not press charges.

"No one was hurt," Father Heyman said. "If someone is contrite, Jesus told us to forgive, and we're ready to forgive."

The burglary at Holy Apostles comes only a few weeks after two masked gunmen robbed the bingo game at Rochester's Holy Family Church. The gunmen shot a parking lot attendant and made off with \$1,750 on June 11.



Rabbi Judea Miller

Rabbi Miller, 64; outspoken leader, interfaith pioneer

Rabbi Judea Miller, one of the Rochester-area's most prominent religious leaders, died of congestive heart failure on Sunday, July 9, 1995, at Strong Memorial Hospital. He was 64.

A native of New York City, Rabbi Miller began his career as an army chaplain in 1959. He subsequently served as rabbi at temples in Kansas and Massachusetts.

Leader of Temple B'rith Kodesh in Brighton, a Rochester suburb, since 1973, Rabbi Miller came to the area having established a reputation as an outspoken advocate for the rights of the poor and minorities, and as a promoter of interreligious dialogue.

An ardent supporter of Israeli nationalism, Rabbi Miller was nonetheless highly critical of Israeli treatment of Palestinians at times, and sought to foster discussion between Jews, Muslims and Christians over Middle Eastern issues and questions.

In recent years, the genocide of the Bosnian people concerned Rabbi Miller, who lost many family members during the Holocaust. Rona Wyner, executive director of Temple B'rith Kodesh, noted that Rabbi Miller's concern for humanity was rooted in his Jewish identity.

"As a people we have been oppressed, and he didn't want other people to be oppressed," she commented.

Margery S. Nurnberg, former coordinator of the diocesan Department of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, praised the late rabbi's work in the field of interfaith dialogue and noted her own sadness at losing a personal friend. She added that he possessed an intensity in his work that is rarely seen.

"He seemed to have squeezed 10 lifetimes in his one," she observed.

A frequent contributor to the opinion pages of area newspapers, Rabbi Miller wrote an article on Hanukkah for the *Catholic Courier's* 1991 Christmas edition. In it, he explored the origins of the Jewish festival, and wrote eloquently of the Jewish people's struggle to survive in a world often hostile to its existence.

"This is the world's loss," he wrote, bemoaning indifference to Jewish cultural contributions.

Funeral services for the late rabbi were held in Yonkers July 11. A memorial service will be held 7:30 p.m. July 13 at Temple B'rith Kodesh, 2131 Elmwood Ave., Brighton.

Rabbi Miller is survived by his wife, Anita, of Brighton; a son, Rabbi Jonathan Miller of Birmingham, Ala.; a daughter, Rebecca Gottesman of Vermont; his mother, Yetta Waxman of New York City; and five grandchildren.

— Rob Cullivan

Citizens aim to sweep violence from streets



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

As part of the Rochester Challenge Against Violence, Davis Banks (from left), Darryl Houser, James Pentycote and Anne McCracken recently swept up debris along Conkey Avenue in northeast Rochester. The monthlong anti-violence campaign includes sprucing up city neighborhood streets, youth activities and prayer vigils.

Churches, groups unite to end crime

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Area residents, including many from local Catholic churches and organizations, have been doing their part to help reduce crime and violence on neighborhood streets this month and beyond.

The Social Action Network, a diocesan-funded organization of churches and community groups, sponsored a public meeting with leaders of the county's criminal justice system, the Rochester City Police and the parish council at St. Augustine's Church, on Wednesday night, June 28. The meeting was held to highlight concerns among hundreds of residents in the city's 19th Ward about drugs, crime and other quality-of-life issues, according to Ann Hill, a member of SAN's leadership team.

Hill noted that the police committed to a six-month pilot project that will focus on preventing loitering and littering in front of neighborhood stores, and on building relationships between police and area churches.

"It was a very positive meeting," Hill said. She added that SAN's leadership

team will monitor the police department's commitment to the project and will meet with police and criminal justice representatives on July 18 for a follow-up discussion.

St. Bridget's Church, 175 St. Bridget's Drive, has been the venue for a number of events and meetings related to the Second Annual Rochester Challenge Against Violence, a volunteer effort organized by more than a dozen agencies and organizations to decrease strife in the city's northeast section.

The effort kicked off with a march and rally on Sunday, July 2, at Silver Stadium. The events drew about 1,000 participants.

Most recently, St. Bridget's was the site of discussions recounting the city's history prior to and after the racial riots in 1964. While city residents and a local historian discussed the riots during talks on July 6-7, others spoke about the area's current need for reinvestment.

Another Catholic parish, St. Andrew's Church, 923 Portland Ave., was the starting point for a "Candlelight March for Community Unity" on June 29.

St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, a

Catholic Worker outreach center located at 402 South Ave., is hosting a series of talks on the Spirituality of Nonviolence from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesdays until Aug. 8. Call 716/342-6095 for information.

In addition to such activities as neighborhood cleanups, youth recreation activities, barbecues and meetings, the Rochester Challenge Against Violence will culminate with a final rally at Silver Stadium at 7 p.m. on Monday, July 31.

Meanwhile, the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Regional Community of Rochester formally ratified a public "Commitment to Peace" at a eucharistic celebration held at the order's motherhouse, 1437 Blossom Road, Brighton, on June 10.

According to a statement from the order, the commitment grew out of the order's call for nuclear disarmament in 1982.

"We believe that there is a close relationship between the international arms trade and our own domestic arms trade," the statement read. "Both contribute significantly to violence among nations and also in our streets and

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