



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Sarah Floyd (left) and Siobhan Prigent ride the 'Dragon' during an Irish Children's Program outing at Irondequoit's Seabreeze Park earlier this month.

## Belfast girls

Continued from page 2

"There's been some killing," her friend, Sarah, added soberly.

Both girls acknowledged that they were glad to be away from Belfast this year on July 12, a day traditionally marked by Protestant marches commemorating the victory of the Protestant-backed William of Orange over the Catholic Irish-backed English King James at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690.

"There's a whole lot of fighting on the Twelfth of July," Sarah said of the rioting that often follows the raids.

"It's better to be here," Siobhan added. "There's more to do here."

Despite the tensions between their two

communities, both girls expressed renewed hope that the peace process in their homeland would continue. According to the Ackermans, each girl has learned something about what life is like in her friend's community, and they both have shared their insights on such common interests as boys.

"That's what it comes down to," Barry said. "Kids seem to be kids everywhere."

Both girls said they would take such insights from the ICP experience back to their native city.

"We're just all the same," Siobhan concluded.

"I know Siobhan very well," Sarah added. "I'm going to keep in contact."

Those wishing to learn more about the program may write: Irish Children's Program, P.O. Box 22983, Rochester, N.Y. 14692.

## Knights join effort to repeal domestic-partnership statutes

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — The Finger Lakes Region Chapter of the Knights of Columbus is joining an effort to repeal the controversial domestic-partnership laws passed by the Rochester City Council last year.

In addition to allowing homosexual and unmarried heterosexual couples to register as legally recognized partners, the laws adopted April 12, 1994 extend health benefits to unmarried partners of city employees.

Chapter leaders are urging fellow Knights and other city residents to join a door-to-door petition drive scheduled for the city's northwest side this Saturday, July 29.

The goal of the drive organized by the Coalition for Families, which includes the St. Thomas More Lawyers' Guild and the Rochester chapter of Catholics United for the Faith, is to gain enough signatures to force City Council to reconsider the laws. If council members refuse to rescind the legislation, drive organizers say they will seek enough additional signatures to have the issue put up for public referendum next year.

"It is disgraceful that our hard-earned tax dollars are being used to support unmarried homosexual and heterosexual couples because they live together for six months," said Art Harris, president of Knights' Finger Lakes chapter. "We are sending the wrong message to young people."

"Using tax dollars to support illicit relationships is a breach of public trust,"

Harris added.

The petitions request that the City Council amend the city charter and thereby rescind the two laws. If the council does not act on its request, the group hopes to gain enough signatures to place the issue on the ballot for city voters to decide in November, 1996. The group is using a provision of New York state's Municipal Home Rule Law in calling for the city charter's revision.

According to William Polito, an attorney and one of the coalition's leaders, the group needs 5,400 signatures to place the issue before the City Council, and an additional 2,700 names to place it on the ballot. So far, Polito said, efforts in Rochester churches have produced between 1,000 and 1,500 signatures. If this Saturday's drive falls short, a second effort will take place in August, he added.

The coalition had originally hoped to get the referendum on the ballot this November, Polito said, but it received indications that city officials would challenge the group's interpretation of the Municipal Home Rule Law in court. Organizers decided that because litigation could take months to resolve, the best way for them to challenge the laws would be to wait for next year's ballot.

Moreover, Polito said, because 1996 is a presidential-election year, organizers believe that the political environment "will lend a lot more publicity to our effort."

Individuals interested in assisting with the petition drive are asked to contact Sue Stone at 716/264-1098, or Polito at 716/872-1948 (days) or 872-5337 (evenings).

## Obituaries

### Fr. George Gauthier; at 62

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer



ROCHESTER — Father George E. Gauthier, former pastor of St. Joseph's Church in Cayuga, died Saturday, July 22, 1995, following a long bout with cancer. He was 62 years old.

Father Frank E. Lioi, pastor of St. Anne's Church in Rochester, said that Father Gauthier remained active at the city parish for a long time despite suffering from Parkinson's disease as well as prostate and bone cancer. In particular, he reached out to the sick and homebound.

"He was very unassuming," Father Lioi said. "He ministered in a quiet and gentle way to people."

Father William M. Barrett, homilist at Father Gauthier's funeral Mass earlier this week, remembered his former classmate and longtime friend as "quiet, reserved, not flashy."

Father Gauthier was also extremely generous in his quiet way, Father Barrett said. He discovered this only after he became the late priest's power of attorney during the last few months. "He was Franciscan in his kind of poverty," he said. "He used to give money away a lot."

An East Rochester native, Father Gauthier was born Feb. 3, 1933, to the late Gordon J. and Marie C. (Winterhalter) Gauthier. After graduating from St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, he was ordained June 5, 1959.

Between 1959 and 1968, Father Gauthier served as assistant pastor at the fol-

lowing diocesan parishes: St. Mary's, Waterloo; St. Andrew's, Rochester; Our Mother of Sorrows, Greece; and St. Charles Borromeo, Elmira Heights. In 1968, he began working in rural ministry and later with the Office of Human Development in the Southern Tier.

After being named assistant pastor of St. Patrick's in Mt. Morris in 1973, Father Gauthier later served in the same capacity at St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls, and St. John's Clyde and St. Patrick's, Savannah.

In 1981, Father Gauthier was appointed pastor of St. Joseph's Parish in Cayuga, where he remained until 1984. After serving as associate pastor of Rochester's St. Philip Neri Church, he was named parochial vicar at St. Anne's, Rochester in 1986. At the time of his death he was still assigned to St. Anne's, even though he had moved to the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary in January.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated for Father Gauthier at St. Jerome's Church in East Rochester July 25. Bishop Dennis W. Hickey served as the main celebrant. Interment was in St. Mary's Cemetery, Fairport.

Father Gauthier is survived by two brothers and two sisters: Gordon L. Gauthier of Penfield, Arthur J. Gauthier of Fullerton, Calif., Jean M. Gauthier of East Rochester, and Carol McHugh and her husband, William, of Irondequoit; three nephews and one niece, Timothy, Edward, Jeffrey and Kathleen McHugh; one uncle, Edward Mueller; and several cousins.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, 4095 East Ave., Pittsford, N.Y. 14534.

### Mother Mary, OCD, dies at 82; served as prioress of Carmelites

Mother Mary of the Holy Ghost, OCD, former prioress of the Discalced Carmelites, died Friday, June 30, 1995, at the Monastery of Our Lady and St. Joseph on Jefferson Road in Pittsford after a prolonged illness. She was 82.

The former Eileen Patricia Hogan was a native of Huntington, Va. She attended Seton Hall Academy and graduated with honors from Trinity College in Washington, D.C.

In 1933, she entered the Discalced Carmelites, who at that time lived on Saratoga Avenue in Rochester. She was solemnly professed June 8, 1938. Mother

Mary fulfilled the office of prioress from 1953 to 1956, and again for many years after 1960. She also acted as novice mistress, turn sister, and supervisor and designer of liturgical vestments and altar linens.

Mother Mary also played a large role in the planning of the current Carmelite monastery on Jefferson Road. In addition, she took an active part in the revision and updating of several Carmelite documents.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Mother Mary was celebrated July 3, 1995, at the Monastery of Our Lady and St. Joseph. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, who was assisted by several other diocesan priests. Interment took place at the monastery.



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