

Plans emerge for Reality Cup

By Lee Strong
Senior staff writer

ROCHESTER — Organizers are beginning to finalize plans for the Reality Cup, a series of events intended to highlight poverty in the area and to run in conjunction with the Ryder Cup Golf Tournament at Pittsford's Oak Hill Golf Course.

The Reality Cup will kick off at 2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 26, with a public rally at Samuel Torres Park on North Clinton Avenue. The Rev. Al Sharpton, a black activist who last year ran against Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan for the U.S. Senate, is scheduled to speak at the event being touted as "Everybody's Rally."

In addition, the Reality Cup Committee Aug. 14 sent a letter to Monroe County Executive John D. Doyle and Rochester Mayor William A. Johnson Jr., asking the two political leaders to declare Sept. 21 — the day before the Sept. 22-24 Ryder Cup begins — as "1995 Reality Cup Day."

During the Ryder Cup — an international event that pits Europe's best professional golfers against those from the United States — organizers are considering a number of activities, including providing transportation for Ryder Cup visitors into poor neighborhoods of the City of Rochester, and additional rides for poor city residents into the affluent suburb of Pittsford.

The Reality Cup Committee also sent an Aug. 14 letter to Mike Gilligan, director of the Ryder Cup Tournament, challenging the winning Ryder Cup team to a miniature golf contest against a "Reality Cup" team at 1 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25, at the Whispering Pines Miniature Golf Course near Seabreeze Park.

Meanwhile, in preparation for the Reality Cup, several neighborhood meetings have taken place around Rochester to explain the effort and attract attention to it. Among those meetings have been an Aug. 9 session at St. Philip Neri Church, 1776 Clifford Ave., and an Aug. 14 meeting for Hispanics at St. Michael's Church, 869 N. Clinton Ave.

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Centenarian credits upbeat nature

By Scott VanDerveer
Editorial intern

PITTSFORD — She's lived through nine popes and served four different schools during her 65 years of religious life.

Her infectious laugh and energetic spirit have graced the halls of the Sisters of St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary, 4095 East Ave., for a decade.

And on Aug. 1, Sister Rose Irene Reisdorf, SSJ, turned 100 years old.

Born in 1895, the former Marguerite Reisdorf was the third of John and Frances Reisdorf's six daughters. As a child, Marguerite was close with her younger sister, Sister Francis Raphael Reisdorf, SSJ, who also became a woman religious. Marguerite joined the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1930.

Sister Rose Irene — her name combines those of her younger sister, Rose, and older sister Irene — taught from 1935-54 at Rochester's Corpus Christi School, where she quickly became a popular teacher.

"There was a large number of children in her first grade at Corpus Christi, and she handled them well," said Sister Jeanne Agnes Michaud, SSJ, who lived with Sister Rose Irene at Corpus Christi Convent. "The children clung to her hand; they walked along with her. She was always a sprightly person, taking things as they came along, never questioning or complaining."

Her nearly two decades of experience at Corpus Christi landed her more responsibility. In 1954 she moved to Chili's St. Feehan's School. When the parish and school were renamed St. Pius X in 1956, Sister Rose Irene was the logical choice to become the founding principal.

While also teaching the third grade, she remembers the parish telephone was in her classroom.

"If the call was for the pastor, he'd come into the room and all 40 children would be quiet until he finished the call," she quipped.

Sister Rose Irene stayed at St. Pius X until 1959, when she moved to St. Mary's in Waterloo for two years, then to St. Stephen's in Geneva. She enjoyed the time she spent in the Finger Lakes region because it allowed her to visit frequently with family in Auburn.

Sister Rose Irene taught full-time at St. Stephen's until 1969, when she became a classroom assistant. Remarkably, she stayed at that post until 1985, when she



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Sister Rose Irene Reisdorf, SSJ, who turned 100 Aug. 1, enjoys the company of her cousin Ashley George during a birthday party at the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary.

turned 90. She then took up residence at the SSJ Convent Infirmary, where she now resides.

When asked what accounts for her longevity, Sister Rose Irene shook her head at the simplicity of it all.

"I just keep going," she said. "I walk up and down the hall everyday and do little things. I don't feel 100 years old."

Long lives run in the Reisdorf family. Sister Rose Irene's two sisters, Rose R. Hayden and Elizabeth Reisdorf, still reside in the family home on Auburn's Seymour Street, where they've lived for 87 years. The two women agree that music has added to their longevity and quality of life.

"Music keeps us going — there's nothing like it," Rose said. "Music keeps us young and helps us meet people."

The two women still host family "musicals" twice a year. Elizabeth plays the organ, Rose plays the piano, and other family friends join them, including Father Albert Shamon, who plays the mandolin.

Father Shamon, who has known the Reisdorfs his entire life, is not surprised Sister Rose Irene has become a centenarian.

"She is always joyful," said Father Shamon, who serves as administrator at Fleming's St. Isaac Jogues Chapel. "She loves people and loves the church."

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