

DIOCESAN NEWS



Mother Angelica greets an Archangel School student during her Sept. 29 appearance at The Party House. S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Mother Angelica visits conference

By Rob Cullivan
Staff Writer

Were Pontius Pilate to interrogate Jesus today, he might ask the Savior not "What is truth?" but "Where is truth?" according to the founder of the Eternal Word Television Network.

For millions of viewers around the world, the truth of Catholic teaching finds its home on EWTN, the largest religious cable network, reaching 40 million subscribers in 49 U.S. states and 16 countries.

That audience might well expand in the week ahead, as EWTN will be the only network devoting all of its broadcasting time to Pope John Paul II's highly publicized Oct. 4-9 visit to the United States.

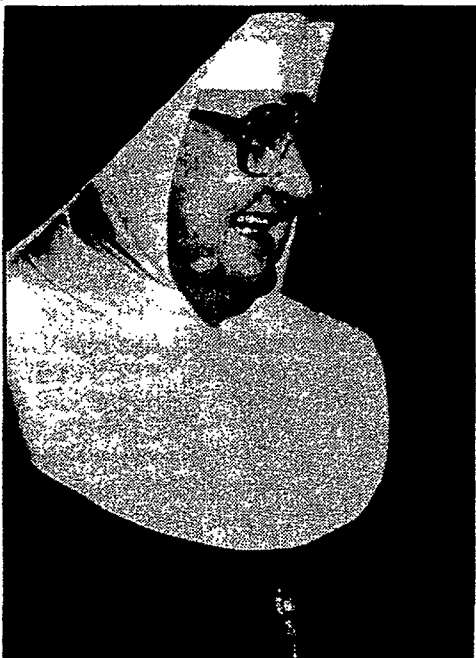
Mother Angelica, who founded EWTN in 1981, believes her network's mix of talk shows, documentaries, teaching series and other programs presents the church's truth in as unvarnished a manner as possible.

"I think we appeal to grass roots people, and the grass roots people are listening," Mother Angelica told the *Catholic Courier* during a phone interview from her Birmingham office on Monday morning, Oct. 2.

The famed woman religious, who rivals the pope in terms of worldwide media exposure, was in Rochester on Friday, Sept. 29, to serve as the keynote speaker for the annual conference of the Western New York Chapter of Catholics United for the Faith.

About 400 people attended an afternoon session with Mother Angelica, who also spoke at a dinner that evening at The Party House, 677 Beahan Road. The dinner drew about 840 people, according to Mike Macaluso, dinner chairman. Macaluso noted that the event served as a fundraiser for Archangel School, a private school run by lay Catholics at 1612 Buffalo Road.

An additional 400 people also attended the CUF conference session at Holy Spirit Church in Webster on Saturday,



Mother Angelica served as the keynote speaker for the annual conference of the Western New York Chapter of Catholics United for the Faith.

Sept. 30, which featured Father Mitch Pacwa, SJ, an author and biblical scholar, and Father Robert J. Levis, professor of theology at Gannon University. Both priests also spoke at the Friday night dinner.

Mother Angelica proved to be a popular guest at the CUF dinner, Macaluso said.

Auburn Merton society schedules conference on 'peace'

AUBURN — The Auburn chapter of the International Thomas Merton Society has scheduled a conference for Saturday, Oct. 21, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Center, Melrose Road.

The theme of the conference is "Making peace with God, ourselves and our planet."

The scheduled presenters are Monsignor William H. Shannon, who will talk about "Merton and nonviolence,"

"I was overwhelmed myself by the love and affection people showed her," Macaluso said, adding that many dinner-goers stayed around after her speech, asking for hugs and prayers from the TV personality.

If Catholics find Mother Angelica and her network appealing, it's because EWTN provides a steady Catholic message in an era when the church's leadership is preoccupied with such issues as feminism and theological dissent, Mother Angelica noted.

"(EWTN) is not constantly a roller-coaster," she said.

What parishes can learn from EWTN is that the faithful need a steady diet of the church's basic teachings on the sacraments, Scripture and social issues, she said.

"The sheep need to be fed," Mother Angelica commented of the church's membership. "I think today we don't talk about the sheep anymore. The truth is you have to reach all the people, not just the intellectuals. We have to do it in such a way that even a child can understand it."

Although many people consider her network's slant on the church to be traditional or conservative, Mother Angelica rejected any attempts to pigeonhole her message.

"The network is Catholic," she said. "It's not conservative, it's not liberal ... Truth is truth. The church is a vehicle by which you find the truth."

Christine M. Bochen, who will address the topic of "Merton and spirituality," and Sister Monica Weis, SSJ, who will discuss "Merton and ecology." All three presenters are or have been officers of the International Thomas Merton Society.

Participants are asked to bring their own lunches. Admission is \$5 per person.

For further information, call Tom Fogerty at 315/252-6748, or Jane Wlad at 252-5626.

Fair targets ways to plan intergenerational events

ROCHESTER — Wellspring Church Resource Services is offering a conference Saturday, Oct. 21, conference on ways to plan intergenerational events at churches, with a special focus on events for Advent.

Called an "Advent Adventure," the learning fair will run from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Bethany Presbyterian Church, 3000 Dewey Ave.

The fair will include guidance on planning intergenerational events for participants' churches. Participants will also experience an intergenerational event designed for Advent.

Cost for Wellspring members is \$10 per person before Oct. 13, \$15 thereafter; \$15 for non-members before Oct. 13, \$20 thereafter.

To register for more information, write: Wellspring, 1100 S. Goodman St., Rochester, N.Y. 14620; or call 716/271-7017.

Tier cluster to conduct first-ever census Oct. 22

CORNING — The Corning-Painted Post Roman Catholic Community will conduct its first-ever census Oct. 22.

Home visitations are scheduled to take place Sunday, Oct. 22, from 1 to 5 p.m. According to organizers, more than 400 parishioners — identified by badges — plan to assist with the census. Posters announcing the census are currently being placed in areas around the Corning-Painted Post cluster.

Formed in 1989, the four-church parish includes St. Mary's, St. Patrick's and St. Vincent DePaul churches in Corning as well as Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Painted Post.

Anti-violence workshop slated in Waverly parish

WAVERLY — Anti-violence workshops will be offered for parents and educators during a program scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 15. The event will take place from 2 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at St. James Church, 503 Clark St.

Adults will have the opportunity to explore specific ways of deterring violence by creating loving environments in their homes, schools and communities. Serving as the keynote presenter will be Dr. James McGinnis, director of the Institute for Peace and Justice in St. Louis, Mo., and founder of the National Parenting for Peace and Justice Network.

The day is being sponsored by Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier as well as several diocesan Catholic schools and Tioga County parish social-ministry committees. Child care is available.

Registration is required by Oct. 11. Free-will donations will be accepted. For details, call 607/734-9784.

Benefit concert planned to aid pregnancy center

GATES — Loretta Cisterna Doyle, Teryle Maar and Father Robert Ring are scheduled to perform a benefit concert for Rochester's Problem Pregnancy Help Center on Sunday, Oct. 22, at 2:30 p.m. at St. Helen's Church, 310 Hinchey Road.

The concert serves as the major fundraiser for the center, 3252 Lake Ave. Although there is no charge for the concert, free-will offerings will be accepted.

Baby-sitting will be provided. The Social Ministry Committee of Holy Spirit Church will serve refreshments after the concert.

For information, call 716/865-0960.