

DIOCESAN NEWS

Relin, SAN end dispute; will work together

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — At a public meeting Nov. 2 at St. Augustine's Church, Monroe County District Attorney Howard Relin and members of the Social Action Network apparently resolved differences that had become public in recent weeks.

Relin promised to set up a meeting between New York State Liquor Authority officials and network members to discuss investigating liquor license violations by convenience stores in the 19th Ward, in southeast Rochester. He also agreed to return SAN members' phone calls within 48 hours. He had been criticized for allegedly failing to return their phone calls.

SAN members and neighborhood residents also heard Rochester City Councilmember-at-Large Wade Norwood say that the city council is considering legislation to increase pressure on convenience stores to operate legally.

SAN, an organization of Catholic parishes throughout Monroe County, sponsored the meeting, which was attended by about 160 people including police and other civic officials.

Along with St. Augustine's, Our Lady of Good Counsel and St. Monica's parishes make up the cluster of the Roman Catholic Community of the 19th Ward.

SAN had recently criticized Relin for allegedly failing to follow up on promises made at a public meeting in June. They were made to network members and neighborhood residents concerned with the proliferation of illegal activity in and

around convenience stores.

City police and building code inspectors have targeted such stores in recent months as part of "Operation Storefront," a crackdown on illegal activities including selling alcohol and cigarettes to minors, and allowing excessive loitering and drug sales in and around stores.

Deputy Police Chief Robert Duffy, who spoke at the Nov. 2 meeting, said Operation Storefront resulted in more than 100 arrests since the beginning of the summer, and that the city had closed six stores that were centers of illegal activity.

Relin had promised in June to pursue prosecution of the owners of many other such stores. At the Nov. 2 meeting he reiterated previous public statements that such prosecutions take a minimum of six months to successfully complete.

"If people think that we're able to close down a place in one day, that is not anything we can do," Relin said.

Relin also contended that SAN members had refused to meet with an official from the state's liquor authority, a contention SAN members disputed. To resolve the issue, Relin promised to set up a meeting for SAN, two investigators from the state liquor authority (five work in western New York), and himself in the next few weeks. They will discuss initiating undercover investigations of convenience stores to determine if they are violating their licenses to sell alcohol, he said. The licenses can be revoked after two violations, he added.

Relin also said the police and his office have noticed a sharp decrease in illegal

alcohol sales by stores in recent months, a decrease he attributed to increased police pressure on outlaw stores.

"Since the push began that we talked about in July, a great deal of misconduct has changed," Relin said.

DeWain Feller, co-chairman of SAN in the 19th Ward, said he was satisfied with Relin's statements at the meeting, and that he felt the public dispute between SAN and Relin was over.

"I'm pretty confident that we can work together," Feller concluded.

As for the proposed legislation that would toughen pressure on convenience stores, components are:

- Establishment of a required certificate of use for businesses operating in the city. Just as a certificate of occupancy calls for compliance with zoning and building code regulations, the new certificate would call for compliance with such required business practices as adhering to certain hours of operation.

- City funding for the hiring of an inspector who would investigate stores in the evening, when many violations occur. Currently, city inspectors only work days, Norwood noted.

- An increase in fines for operating after the time a store should close. Currently, for example, a first violation can draw a \$300 fine, but the proposed legislation would increase that to \$500.

- Before the city council considers the legislation, Norwood pointed out, a public meeting on it will be held at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 14, at City Hall, 30 Church St. The city is also looking at a number of other ways to better regulate stores, he concluded.

Von Trapp to sing at Nov. 18 benefit for prayer center

GREECE — Elisabeth von Trapp, a second-generation member of the famous Austrian family portrayed in "The Sound of Music," will perform Saturday, Nov. 18, at 7:30 p.m. in St. Charles Borromeo Church, 3003 Dewey Ave. Proceeds will benefit the parish's Borromeo Prayer Center.



Granddaughter of Maria von Trapp, the movie's matriarch, Elisabeth is the only descendant of the Trapp Family Singers to make her living as a professional musician. She performs both religious and secular pieces, including a number of psalms set to music.

An acoustic guitarist and singer, von Trapp recently released her first album, "Wishful Thinking." The album includes her performances of songs written by Van Morrison, Jimi Hendrix, Jennifer Warnes and Leonard Cohen, as well as several of von Trapp's own compositions.

A resident of Waitsfield, Vt., von Trapp also performs songs reflecting life in the New England state. Tickets are \$10 for adults, and \$8 for those age 60 and over. For information, call 716/663-0948.

Diocesan parishes to celebrate Blessed Grimoaldo's first feast day

Father Robert F. McNamara
Guest Contributor

Preparations are underway to celebrate the first-ever feast day of Blessed Grimoaldo Santamaria Saturday, Nov. 18. Services are scheduled at Holy Cross Church and Church of the Annunciation in Rochester, and St. Mary's Church in Dansville.

Holy Cross Church plans a triduum — or three days — of devotions Nov. 15, 16, and 17 at the 5:20 p.m. Masses. The celebrant and homilist for these Masses will be Father John Reif of Webster, who attended the beatification of Blessed Grimoaldo in January. The Mass on the

feast day will be at 8 a.m.

Church of the Annunciation will also hold a triduum Nov. 15, 16, and 17 with 8:15 a.m. Masses each day. The feast day Mass will be at 1 p.m.

Both Holy Cross and Church of the Annunciation will display relics of Blessed Grimoaldo to be venerated.

At St. Mary's Church in Dansville, the triduum will run from Nov. 16 to 18. A special Mass will be celebrated at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 16 by the pastor, Father Joseph R. Catanise. Father Timothy Horan will be the celebrant and homilist for the 7:30 p.m. Mass Nov. 17, and Father Paul A. Bonacci of Corning will be the celebrant at the 7:30 p.m. feast day Mass Nov. 18.

The church will also hold exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for night-long adoration.

Blessed Grimoaldo (in English, "Grimwald") was born in Italy in 1883 and died there at age 19 in 1902. His holiness from childhood on was at first known only to his townfolk and to the Passionist order, which he joined in 1899. News of it spread to the United States in the 1950s when his sister, Vincenzina Santamaria Panella, at the request of the Italian Passionists, started Rochesterians praying to him for favors.

After a long investigation of his sanctity and the verification of a miracle, Pope John Paul II declared him "blessed" Jan.

29, 1995. A score of his Rochester relatives attended the beatification in Rome.

Two more verified miracles are required for his canonization as a saint.

Most of the "blessed" (individuals raised by the church to the rank just below "saint") can be celebrated with special Masses only by certain groups or in certain localities. The Diocese of Rochester has been granted such permission because of its connections with Blessed Grimoaldo through family members who live here. That connection prompted Mayor William A. Johnson Jr. and the Rochester City Council to bestow on him the distinction of "honorary resident of the City of Rochester."

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from the Catholic Courier

Spirituality

Publication Date: Dec. 14th
Advertising Deadline: Nov. 30th

As we await the birth of Christ in our hearts, we present this special section focusing on ways individuals can grow in their spiritual development. Among the options to be discussed are guided and self-guided retreats, reading, Scripture study and other prayer groups.



Advent

Publication Date: Nov. 30th
Advertising Deadline: Nov. 16th

As society decorates, Christians meditate on the mystery of Jesus' birth. This supplement will help families celebrate the season of anticipation through projects, special meals and other activities. This will be a great medium for businesses offering their Christmas ware.



The Birth of Jesus

A Christmas Coloring Book
Publication Dates: Dec. 7th

Advertising Deadline: Nov. 21st

New to the Courier, this special section will explain the nativity in terms children will understand and enjoy. This keepsake coloring book will offer children a special look at the true meaning of the Christmas season.



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