

# DIOCESAN NEWS



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

## Honrando Nuestra Señora

Gladys Pagán (left) and Toñito Rivera carry the statue of Our Lady of Providence, the patroness of Puerto Rico, to the altar Nov. 20 during a Mass in her honor at Rochester's St. Francis of Assisi Church. The Mass was celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark. Father Jack Posiadlo was the homilist.

## Five new members accept Stewardship Council seats

Five Monroe County residents have been appointed to the diocesan Stewardship Council, serving terms due to expire in September of 2000.

The new members are:

- Matthew Augustine of Pittsford, who serves on the council's development committee. He is president and chief executive officer of Eltrex Industries, and a parishioner at Rochester's Immaculate Conception Church.
- Barbara Kelley of Rochester, who chairs the development committee. She is vice-president for public affairs at Bausch and Lomb, Inc., and a parishioner at Rochester's Immaculate Conception Church.
- Germaine Knapp of Webster, who

serves on the investment committee. She is president of Worksmart of Rochester, Inc. (formerly Wordsmart Inc.), and a parishioner at Rochester's St. John the Evangelist Church on Humboldt Street.

- Jane Napier of Brighton, who serves on the capital campaign cabinet. This group will cease to exist when the Miracle of Sharing Campaign concludes in the summer of 1997. Napier also sits on boards at St. John Fisher College, Hobart College and the American Red Cross, and is a parishioner at Rochester's Corpus Christi Church.

- Father Robert Werth of Rochester, who serves on the finance committee. He is the pastor at Rochester's Roman Catholic Community of the 19th Ward.

The new members replace former committee members Angelo Costanza, Dr. William Pickett, Robert Tarnow and Father James Marvin.

In addition to the four new appointments, Penfield's David Peartree has joined the council as an ex-officio member on the education committee. Peartree, an attorney and a parishioner at Brighton's Our Lady of Lourdes Church, is also president of the Catholic Schools Board of Monroe County.

The Stewardship Council advises Bishop Matthew H. Clark on financial, investment and management matters. Council members also assist the bishop on fulfilling the diocese's development needs.

## St. Charles group invites adult singles to gathering

GREECE — The first meeting of a new adult singles group will take place Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at St. Charles Borromeo Church, 3003 Dewey Ave.

All single men and women are welcome to this gathering, which will include discussion of future events and activities. Coffee will be served.

Those planning to attend are asked to call 716/352-2998 or 663-3990 by Dec. 8.

## Jesuit author to conduct St. Agnes, Avon, retreat

AVON — Father James R. Dolan, SJ, director of the Jesuit Retreat Center in Syracuse for the past 20 years, will conduct a parish retreat Dec. 25 at St. Agnes Church, 108 Prospect St.

Father Dolan has been influenced heavily by his fellow Jesuit, Father Anthony deMello, who died in 1987 and who authored such books as "Well-springs," "Song of the Bird," and "A Call to Love." Father deMello centered his spiritual teachings on the premise that God loves unconditionally, with a love that invites true freedom, rather than fear.

Father Dolan has published a book for retreatants titled "Meditations for Life" and edited Father deMello's book "A Call to Love."

Father Dolan will preach at the 5 p.m. Mass on Saturday, Dec. 2, and the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses on Sunday, Dec. 3. He will also hold two talks in the parish center on Monday, Dec. 4, and Tuesday, Dec. 5. The times are yet to be scheduled, but both talks will be followed by coffee and discussion.

For information, call 716/226-2100.

## Fairport parish tackles 'Make a Difference Day'

FAIRPORT — More than 100 parishioners from Church of the Resurrection, 63 Mason Road, raked leaves, baked, planted, and did other good deeds Oct. 28-29 as part of national "Make a Difference Day."

Parishioners played bingo and volleyball with residents at Crest Manor, and raked leaves at Fairport Baptist Home. Both facilities are residences for the elderly. Parishioners also planted shrubs, crocus and daffodil bulbs at Advent House, a home for the terminally ill.

Church members also raised \$156 through a bake sale for the Humane Society of Rochester, and brought in gifts for a baby shower for Melita House, a home for single mothers in Rochester. Volunteers also washed and waxed ambulances for the Perinton Volunteer Ambulance Corp.

## Coalition lauds hospital for anti-violence initiative

ALBANY — The New York State Crime Prevention Coalition has honored St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester for its role in starting the Southwest-Neighborhood Anti-Violence Initiative, a collaboration of health and human service agencies in the area to reduce violence.

St. Mary's has worked with other neighborhood groups and agencies to help them use hospital and community resources to reduce the causes of violence, according to the coalition, which paid tribute at its annual conference Oct. 26.

NYSCPC is a not-for-profit organization that encourages law enforcement agencies, citizens, businesses and others to reduce crime and criminal opportunity.

## Obituary

### Sister Mary Irene Rappl; taught 41 years

ROCHESTER — Sister Mary Irene Rappl, a Sister of Mercy for 65 years, died of cancer Nov. 12 in the Mercy Motherhouse Lourdes Hall infirmary, where she was admitted a month ago. She was 84.

Sister Irene was an educator for 41 years. She taught home economics for 14 years at Our Lady of Mercy High School in Rochester from 1941 to 1955. She also taught at Mount Carmel (1933-39) and St. Charles Borromeo schools in Rochester (1939-40 and 1958-62), St. Joseph's School in Penfield (1962-64), and Our Lady of Mercy (1964-66) and St. James schools (1966-78) in Rochester.

Sister Irene was a dietician at St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell (1955-58), and served her congregation in diverse posts from driver, to assistant coordinator of fund-raising sales from 1978 to 1988.

Her third cousin, Sister Marion Rappl, said Sister Irene helped many people "in her own quiet, self-effacing way," often behind the scenes. She recalled that Sister Irene ironed hundreds of graduation

gowns at graduation time at Mercy High School. She also said Sister Irene applied artistic and creative talents as sacristan of the new chapel at the motherhouse in the early 1950s. And as hospital dietician, she not only planned menus but also cleaned cupboards at night.

Just five years ago, the two women went on a four-day walking tour of Berlin with their cousin and his teen-age sons. When asked if she wanted to rest, Sister Irene always said, "I can go a little further." But, Sister Marion added, "We were dying for a rest."

A friend and fellow teacher, Mary Lou Rood, said of Sister Irene, "She was a true religious woman, prayerful, always finding a way to help, alert and sensitive to those who might be overlooked. She was a faithful and faith-filled woman."

Sister Teresa Margaret Van Tassel, a friend since the sisters' novitiate days in the 1930s, came from Detroit to be with Sister Irene for the past month. Sister Irene was "interested in the whole child" in the schools she served, she said. "If

they had problems, she would help them."

Sister Irene graduated from Mercy High School in 1935, from Nazareth Normal School, Rochester, in 1937 and Marywood College, Scranton, Pa., in 1942, earning a bachelor's degree in education with a major in home economics.

Born Oct. 22, 1911, in Rochester to German parents, Sister Irene entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1930 and professed her final vows in 1936. Her home parish was Church of the Holy Family in Rochester.

She lived with the Marietta Community at the motherhouse from 1981 until early October.

She is survived by her brother Albert of Rochester, two nieces, and Sister Marion and another cousin, Sister Katherine Ann Rappl, RSM. A wake and vigil service were held Nov. 14 at the motherhouse, where a funeral Mass was said Nov. 15. Interment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

—Kathleen Schwarz