

DIOCESAN NEWS

Fr. McHale dies in auto accident

By Lee Strong
Associate editor

Father Michael Alan McHale died early Christmas morning in a one-car accident just outside Corning.

Police believe the 42-year-old priest fell asleep at the wheel while driving to his mother's Corning home after celebrating midnight Mass at St. Stephen's Church, 48 Pulteney St., Geneva.

A Corning native, Father McHale had served as a parochial vicar at the Geneva parish from 1992 to June 1995, when he was named chaplain at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Born April 5, 1953, Father McHale attended St. Mary's School, Corning, and Corning East High School. He was a graduate of Michigan State University, where he earned a degree in religious studies.

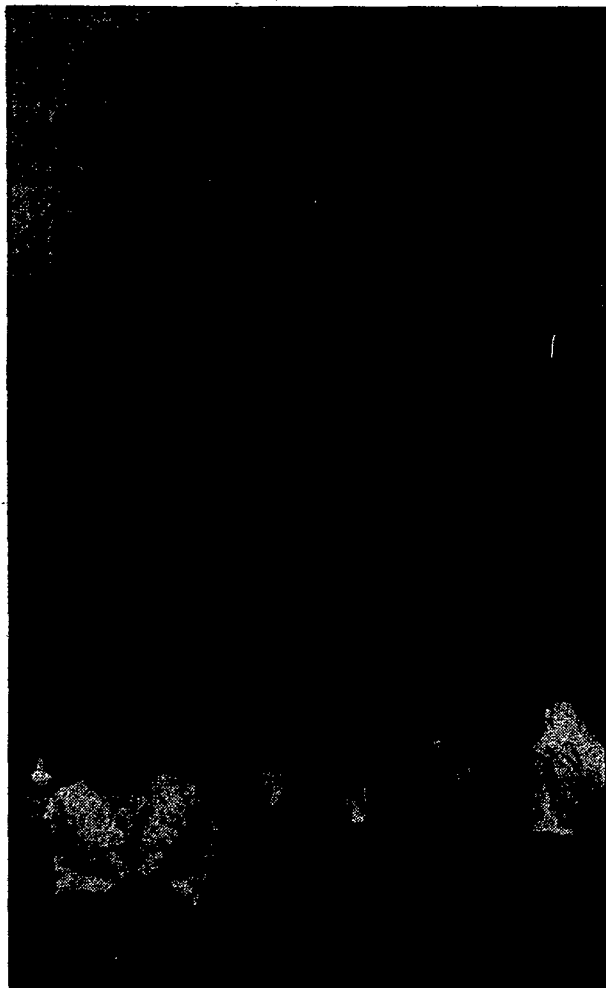
After graduating in 1978, he taught in a Michigan Catholic school, then worked as an orderly in a hospital on Kodiak Island in Alaska. After returning to Corning, Father McHale attended Corning Community College, and became a licensed practical nurse. He worked as a nurse for two years, then entered Immaculate Conception Seminary and Seton Hall Graduate School of Theology in New Jersey in 1983.

Father McHale was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Matthew H. Clark March 31, 1989, at St. John the Evangelist Church, Humboldt Street, in Rochester. He served as priest intern at St. Pius X Church in Rochester from 1989 to 1992 before being assigned to St. Stephen's Church.

Msgr. Gerard Krieg, pastor of St. Stephen's, said Father McHale earned the love of the parish.

"He loved to be here, and we loved him," Msgr. Krieg said. "We've got a whole parish grieving."

During his three years in Geneva, Msgr. Krieg continued, Father McHale



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer
Father Michael A. McHale (center), who died in a fatal car accident Dec. 25, celebrates a Christmas liturgy for students at Rochester Institute of Technology's Schmitt Interfaith Center Dec. 16.

showed an ability to reach out to people of all ages and circumstances.

"He was extremely effective in bringing families back to the practice of the faith," Msgr. Krieg recalled.

He was also especially effective with children, the monsignor observed, noting, "He was always, in spite of his age,

always the perpetual child."

Father McHale even put his nursing skills to use during hospital visits, the monsignor noted, checking the people's IVs.

The parish has been so moved by Father McHale's death, parishioners are talking about creating a memorial fund, Msgr. Krieg said.

"One of the things we hope to do is set up a memorial fund to facilitate providing for advocacy for the poor," Msgr. Krieg said. "That was a dream he stated shortly after he arrived."

In his honor, two memorial services were scheduled for Jan. 4 at the church. The first was planned for 9 a.m. for the students at St. Francis/St. Stephen's School. The second was scheduled for 7 p.m. for the entire parish.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark celebrated the funeral Mass for Father McHale at Corning's St. Mary's Church Dec. 28, 1995.

Father McHale was predeceased by his father, Francis L. McHale, who died in 1983.

He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Alice McHale; brothers and sister-in-law Francis L. McHale, Jr., and Thomas J. and Patricia L. McHale; sisters and brother-in-law Michele A. McHale, and Jane E. McHale and Robert Gear; nieces Ruth McHale and Alice Gear; and nephew John McHale.

Fr. Robert Engle, CP, served varied ministries

Father Robert Bede Engle, CP, a Dansville native, died suddenly Dec. 12, 1995, at St. Ann's Passionist Monastery, Scranton, Pa. He was 63.

Born Sept. 13, 1932, to Leo and Agnes Fremer Engle, Father Engle was a graduate of St. Mary's School, Dansville, and Dansville Central High School. He attended Niagara University and graduated from Holy Cross Seminary. He made his profession of vows July 16, 1955, in Jamaica, N.Y., and was ordained a priest by Bishop Martin O'Gara, CP, in Union City, N.J., April 28, 1960.

In his 35 years as a priest, Father Engle was involved in a variety of ministries. He served six years in parochial ministry, three years in seminary formation ministry, and 15 years in missionary work in the Philippines and Jamaica. He also served as a minister to the English-speaking community in Mexico City. Since 1989, Father Engle had been assigned to St. Ann's Passionist Monastery, where he has worked in preaching ministry.

Father Engle was predeceased by his parents and two brothers, Edward and George Engle. He is survived by two sisters, Mrs. JoAnn Schirmer of Painted Post, N.Y., and Mrs. Barbara Borer of Portville, N.Y.; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral Mass for Father Engle was celebrated Dec. 15 at St. Ann's Monastery Church. Interment was on the monastery grounds.

Sr. Mary Celine Frank, 93; taught, led schools

Sister Mary Celine Frank, a Sister of Mercy who celebrated her 70th jubilee this year, died Nov. 21, 1995, in the Mercy Motherhouse Lourdes Hall infirmary. She was 93.

Sister Celine taught for 47 years in the diocese and was principal, while she taught, at two Corning schools, St. Mary's and St. Vincent's.

Born in Rochester, she entered the Mercy community from St. Andrew's Parish at the age of 22, was received as a novice a year later and professed final vows Aug. 21, 1930.

Sister Celine graduated from St. Joseph's Commercial School in 1918 and from Charlotte High School in 1931. She received a bachelor's degree in education from St. Bonaventure University in 1939.

She taught grades one through eight, but primarily junior high, at St. John the Evangelist, Clyde (1924-25); St. Mary's, Corning (1927-36); Mt. Carmel (1936-38); St. Andrew's (1938-47); Holy Family, Auburn (1947-50, 1967-73); St. Vincent's, Corning (1950-51); St. James School (1951-58, 1960-64); St. Ann's, Hornell (1958-59); Our Lady of Mercy Elementary (1959-60); and Holy Cross (1964-67).

After retiring from teaching in 1973, Sister Celine moved to the Omega Community, where she worked at the motherhouse till 1988 as a clerical assistant and as sacristan for the chapel. In 1990 she moved to Lourdes Hall.

Sister Celine is survived by her sister, Sister Mary Colette Frank, a Sister of Mercy of the Omega Community; and several nieces and nephews.

Her funeral Mass was celebrated Nov. 25 in the motherhouse chapel. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

-Kathleen Schwarz

St. Joseph's Villa seeks funds to close deficit

State funds cut, pay scales frozen

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

GREECE - St. Joseph's Villa, a private, not-for-profit, agency which provides mental health services to adolescents and their families, is conducting a fund-raising campaign to close a \$300,000 budget deficit.

Judith McKay, the agency's president and chief executive officer, said the campaign began with letters to previous donors in November.

Although it is no longer officially affiliated with the Catholic Church, St. Joseph's Villa was started as an orphanage by the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1942.

New York state funding provides 97 percent of the Villa's budget, McKay noted. But this year, she said, the state cut \$800,000 from its funding allotment.

The Villa provides services to 600 individuals and their families in 27 counties throughout western and central New York. It offers 11 programs ranging from supervised residences to education and preventative services for children, many of whom have suffered sexual abuse or who have a history of substance abuse.

The agency responded to the state cut by trimming \$500,000 from its \$11 million budget through a variety of measures, McKay said. Among those mea-

asures: The Villa eliminated five staff positions out of 280, and froze all agency salary levels this year.

"We were unable to give employees the usual merit raises for their performance," McKay explained. "We've lost employees because people really need a job where they can get merit raises."

In addition to cutting about \$300,000 in employee-related expenses, the agency also cut about \$200,000 in such non-personnel expenses as training, supplies and travel costs, McKay said.

She added that the Villa plans to collaborate more closely with such agencies as Hillside Children's Center in Rochester, in order to maintain the current level of mental health services for children.

Despite its efforts, the Villa fell \$300,000 short of closing the funding gap. It reached the point where it may have to consider eliminating programs altogether to make ends meet, McKay noted.

"We really have some concern about jeopardizing the quality of our services," she said of further cost-cutting.

She said, for example, that decreasing the number of staff members available to youngsters in the Villa's residences could hurt the one-on-one relationships that are crucial to helping them deal with their problems.

Meanwhile, the prospect of program elimination comes when demand for the Villa's services is increasing, she said. McKay noted, for example, that in 1994, the Villa was only able to take on one-quarter of the 900 requests it received

from families for admissions and program openings.

"It's our judgment that these human needs are not going to vanish," she observed.

In November, the agency sent letters - signed by McKay - explaining its plight to its private donors.

"Our programs are currently the least expensive in Monroe County and we're continuing to reorganize and find ways to cut costs further," the letter read. "But there is a limit."

There may be a limit, but McKay frankly stated the agency may be looking at even further cuts in state funding as the political climate continues to grow colder for state-funded social service agencies. She noted that her agency will probably engage in far more formalized fund raising over the next year than in the past, and that it will seek to expand its private donor base.

Part of that effort will consist of publicizing the Villa's successes, she said, pointing to a survey conducted with each family when that family's child is discharged. The survey indicated that 87 percent of the clients' parents were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the services provided their child and family.

"I think I'm going to have to figure out how to tell our story," McKay said. "I think it's more than marketing - it's results that the donor looks for."

EDITORS' NOTE: To learn more about St. Joseph's Villa, call 716/865-1550, or write: St. Joseph's Villa, 3300 Dewey Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14616.