

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Diocesan delegates take their stories to Albany

By Kathleen Schwar  
Staff writer

Felicia Hall has a life story to tell. But in Albany Feb. 27, that story boiled down to: Hannick Hall, a residential drug treatment center in Newark, saved her life.

Hall shared her abbreviated tale as part of the Public Policy Forum day sponsored by the New York State Catholic Conference. That day, she met face-to-face with Assemblywoman Susan John, 131st District.

"She told us to feel comfortable," recalled Hall, 32. "But I let her know I was very nervous because it is very important to me."

Nevertheless, John, she said, "heard us completely" for almost an hour.

If Hannick Hall — started by Catholic Family Center and supported with state funding — had not accepted her into its treatment program for drug and alcohol abuse five months ago, Hall said, "I would be a statistic today. I would definitely be dead."

Hall and more than 90 other Diocese

of Rochester residents took part in the 10th annual Catholic Conference forum, with 950 Catholics from across New York state. After morning workshops, Archbishop John O'Connor of New York celebrated Mass.

"It was the touch I needed to go out and really do what I was supposed to," Hall said. "It was very comforting for me, very spiritual."

This year delegates met with legislators and aides to urge:

- Preservation of essential services for the poor and ill in the state budget.
- Welfare reform proposals that provide employment opportunities, livable wages and a safety net for people unable to work.
- Parental notification prior to minors obtaining abortions.
- Financial aid to better enable parents to choose their child's school.
- Full participation of Catholic health providers in state Medicaid managed-care programs.

Jack Balinsky, diocesan director of Catholic Charities and coordinator of the diocesan contingent, said delegates were

fortunate to meet with 12 of the 16 legislators who serve the diocese.

"I think that is a sign of recognition by the legislators of the significance of the Catholic Conference," he said, adding that it also was a matter of luck with the legislators' unpredictable schedules.

The effect, he said, is "long-term and a building of relationship."

Sister Patricia Carroll, SSJ, assistant superintendent for diocesan Government Services and Administration, led Hall's team. She'd only seen legislative aides on her previous three trips, she said, and was happy to meet John this year.

"It is one thing to read about them in the paper and another to meet them in person," Sister Carroll said. "And I hope it was the same thing with her. I left feeling hopeful she will become more informed about her views. She strikes me as a person who sees her job as a call to service to help people."

"It was truly a learning experience,"

Hall observed. "All those issues — a lot of them go hand in hand."

Hall said she knows the value of programs such as Hannick House. By the time she learned of it through an 800 number, she said, "I was spiritually dead and emotionally dead. Only the physical was left."

But the program taught her how to stay away from drugs, how to deal with the past, how to raise her children, and how to accept responsibility, she said.

"It put hope in my life," Hall said.

Now she volunteers for a law office and hopes to become a paralegal.

When she heard Sister Carroll argue in Albany for school choice, with vouchers or tax incentives for parents, Hall, the mother of two, said, "I realized that affects me too. I couldn't believe the connection. Once we got to talking, I could see how a lot of it relates."

"It was a very nice experience," Hall added. "It was definitely something I would love to be a part of in the future."

## Monroe County schools seek funds for use as student aid, development

The Catholic Schools of Monroe County have launched their second annual fund-raising campaign to finance the ongoing development of schools and scholarship aid to students.

In a letter accompanying the fund-raising brochure, Diocesan Superintendent of Schools Tim Dwyer wrote:

"As a result of last year's efforts, many families were assisted with financial aid, and some monies were allocated for teacher enrichment as well as technology enhancement."

He added that the campaign allows six options for donors to contribute to the campaign:

Option 1 specifies that a financial gift be used without restriction in the area of greatest need.

Option 2 designates a gift to provide financial aid for the children of a specific school.

Option 3 designates that a gift provide

financial aid for the children of the parish of one's choice so that they can attend an elementary or junior high school.

Option 4 stipulates that a gift be used to fund a "Great Teacher Program," which provides resources, courses and materials for faculty in-service workshops.

Option 5 directs that a gift be used to upgrade technology in the school of one's choice.

Option 6 notes that a donor cannot contribute financially to the system, but promises to give the gift of prayer to the school community.


For information, call your school principal or Sister Anne Guerin, SSJ, campaign director, at 716/328-3210, ext. 308.

Gifts may be sent to: Monroe County Catholic School Annual Campaign, Attn: School Accountant, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

**HONORING WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** — Three Scottsville-area churches, St. Mary of the Assumption, Grace Episcopal Church and Union Presbyterian Church, marked World Day of Prayer with an ecumenical service March 1. Peace and unity were themes of this year's celebration, which coincided with Church Women United's call for peace in Haiti. Participants prayed at each church, walked and sang by candlelight between the churches, and concluded the observance at St. Mary's.



**KAZAK BUSINESS SERVICES**

36 St. Paul Street • Suite 214 • Rochester • 14604

*Specializing in Small Business  
and Personal Taxes & Accounting*

**(716) 325-5818 • fax (716) 325-9013**

**RETREATS  
along the  
NIAGARA**

**CENTERING PRAYER**  
Rev. M. Basil Pennington, OSCO  
May 10-12

**PRAYER DAY FOR PRIESTS**  
with Rev. M. Basil Pennington, OSCO  
May 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

**STELLA NIAGARA**  
Center of Renewal at Lewiston  
Stella Niagara, NY 14144  
**(716) 754-7376**  
*Our facility, located 10 miles from  
Niagara Falls, NY is available  
for private retreats and group rentals.*

**HART  
MONUMENT  
COMPANY**

*Since 1856*

Monuments, Markers  
and Cemetery Lettering

2301 Dewey Avenue  
(OPPOSITE HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY)

**(716) 865-6746**

*Our Lady is calling you...  
To peace, prayer, and holiness*

**"PRAY, PRAY, PRAY"**  
*Write for our free catalog of over 500 items*

**Great Prayerbooks**

4 Keys To Heaven ..... \$1.50  
Mary, Teach Me To Pray ..... 1.50  
An Hour with Jesus— Vol 1 ..... 2.00  
An Hour with Jesus— Vol 2 ..... 2.00  
Pray, Pray, Pray, 251 pages ..... 6.95  
Thirty Favorite Novenas ..... .75  
Gold Book of Prayers ..... 3.00

**Excellent Reading**

Call Of The Ages—T. Petrisco ..... 11.95  
Imitation Of Christ ..... 1.95  
The Sorrow...The Triumph, Petrisco ..... 12.00  
Walking With The Pilgrim Pope ..... 5.95  
A Time for Truth, D. Nolan ..... 9.95  
The Tears of Mary & Fatima ..... 7.00  
Priests of the World's Destiny ..... 8.00  
The Bridge to Heaven, M. Brown ..... 7.95  
Lord Jesus, Teach Me To Pray ..... 5.95  
Treasure in Clay—on Sheen Life ..... 14.95  
Trumpet Of Gabriel— M. Brown ..... 10.95  
Padre Pio- The True Story ..... 10.95  
You Better Believe It, Fr. Roberts ..... 6.95  
Holy Spirit Our Greatest Friend ..... 1.50  
Power Of The Rosary— Shamon ..... 2.00

**Audio Cassettes**

**The Best of Bishop Sheen**

Your Cross ..... \$3.00  
Value Of Prayer ..... 3.00  
Treasures and Pots ..... 3.00  
Wasting Your Life ..... 3.00  
Meaning of Suffering ..... 3.00  
The Holy Spirit ..... 3.00  
Human Passions ..... 3.00  
The Devil ..... 3.00  
Explains the Rosary ..... 3.00  
Continuing Passion of Christ ..... 3.00  
Christ The King ..... 3.00  
Blessed Mother ..... 3.00  
Our Father ..... 3.00  
About The Angels ..... 3.00  
Parables Of The Lost ..... 3.00

**Miscellaneous**

Rosary—15 Decade, songs, litanies ..... 3.00  
Prayer and Meditations #1 ..... 4.00  
Prayer and Meditations #3 ..... 4.00  
O'Brien- Sounds of Medjugorje #1 ..... 10.00

*Over 7,550,000 sold in U.S. and 47 Foreign Countries.  
Postage: Purchases under \$ 5.00 add \$ 2.00; \$ 5.00 thru \$ 10.00 add \$ 3.00; \$10.00 and Over add \$ 4.00.  
Mary's Call is a tax exempt corporation. Any donation you wish to make will help  
spread the devotion to Our Blessed Mother around the World.*

**Mary's Call** P.O. Box 162 • Salisbury, MO 65281  
**(816) 388-5308**