

YOUNG ADULTS

Prayer is top priority of downtown Rochester group

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — The young adult contingent at St. Mary's Church enjoys a full menu of activities — with prayer and reflection serving as the most popular main course.

This group has been meeting regularly for approximately six months. According to Bunnie Tutty, parish young adult activities coordinator, participants' desire for prayer and reflection became quite evident during Advent.

"We began with evening prayer and did some spin-offs," Tutty said. She explained that the St. Mary's group quickly adopted a trend of adding lengthy discussions onto the end of their prayer sessions.

The talks are free-flowing, rather than tightly structured. For instance, subject matter from an early-April meeting ranged from how vociferous we are with strangers about our Catholicism, to viewpoints on the second coming of Christ.

The group has continued to gather each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at St. Mary's rectory, 15 St. Mary's Place. In addition, members have staged spiritual, service and social get-togethers on other days of the week.

Thus far, these activities have included an evening of dinner, reflection and prayer at the Mercy Prayer Center; assisting the parish at a bread-and-soup dinner on Holy Thursday; and a visit to Women's Place, a shelter for homeless and abused women.

Members have also enjoyed a hike at Mendon Ponds Park; movie nights, both at theaters and at the homes of group members; and a Rochester Amerks hockey game.

Ultimately, however, members said the group's top priority continues to be centered on weekly reflection



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Kathleen Caffrey prays during an April 10 gathering at St. Mary's Church in downtown Rochester. The group of young adults has met on Wednesday evenings in the parish rectory for the past six months. Members also stage a variety of spiritual, service and social events outside of St. Mary's.

and sharing. This high level of devotion, Pat Iannoli said, is the distinguishing characteristic of the St. Mary's assemblage.

"It's often too easy to do just a social thing," Iannoli remarked. "The heart and soul of this group is that we get a spiritual community you don't get anywhere else. This is different."

"We thought we'd like to stop once a week and reflect, with all the busyness in our lives," Amy Wilkin added. "It's something we need."

For Micaela Gutierrez, the meetings enable her to deepen friendships in ways that aren't possible in larger group settings.

"A lot of times I go to Mass and say hi to someone, and I'll never see or say hi to that person again," she said.

Despite the intense emphasis on prayer and discussion, some members say they don't want their group to be perceived as one-dimensional. In fact, Kathleen Caffrey remarked, the St. Mary's gatherings unite many personalities, interests and backgrounds.

"There are so many characteristics of the people who make up that group," Caffrey commented.

"I think the group's still attaining an identity," Pat Ulrich said.

"The group doesn't have a name yet, and I think that's good," Iannoli added.

According to Tutty, the core group includes 10 to 12 people. Several others, she said, make occasional appearances. Though many of the regular participants in this group are St. Mary's parishioners, Christine Peartree noted that activities are open to all young adults.

"We don't ask for their parishioner cards," she joked.

For further details on the group and its activities, call St. Mary's Church at 716/232-7140.

CEMETERIES

of the Rochester Catholic Diocese

Monroe & Livingston Counties

1. Holy Sepulchre Cemetery & Mausoleum
2461 Lake Avenue
Rochester
716-458-4110
2. St. Patrick's
46 Stanley Street
Mt. Morris
716-658-2110
3. St. Vincent DePaul
11 N. Main Street
Churchville
716-293-1400
4. Mount Olivet
East Canal Road
Brockport
716-637-1100

Finger Lakes Region

5. Calvary
St. Mary's
95 N. Main Street
Canandaigua
716-394-1617
6. St. Agnes
670-12 Hubbard Avenue
Chilton Springs
518-462-2007

Finger Lakes Region

7. St. Bernard's
2841 Center Rd.
Scipio Center
315-364-8172
8. St. Bridget's
15 Church St.
E. Bloomfield
716-657-7626
9. St. Francis
12 Church Street
Phelps
315-548-5331
10. St. Joseph's
2667 Hamilton Street
Weedsport
315-834-6266
11. St. Joseph's
6020 Lake Ave. E.
Aurora
315-222-5111
12. St. Mary's
Presbyterian
1100 N. Main
1100 N. Main
1100 N. Main
13. St. Patrick's
51 Grove Street
Moravia
315-462-2007

Southern Tier Region

14. Calvary at the Church of the Immaculate Conception
113 N. Geneva St.
Ithaca
607-273-6121
15. St. James
502 Clark St.
Waverly
607-565-2014
16. St. Mary Our Mother
816 W. Broad St.
Horseheads
607-739-1811

Southern Tier Region

17. St. Patrick's
Rt. 15C
Owego
607-687-1068
18. St. Pius V
35 Maple Street
Cohocton
716-384-5500

