

DIOCESAN NEWS

Group solicits support for new hospice house

By Kathleen Schwar
Staff writer

A group of Greece-area Catholics hopes to help make the "journey home" for dying people as pain-free as possible.

Their plans are to open a two-bed hospice house, Journey Home, within two years. That goal in mind, they have high hopes for two summer fundraisers.

For several individuals involved, said Karen Materise, executive board chairman, "We're kind of looking at it as our Synod life ethic project."

However, the project is ecumenical, she stressed. Materise, a parishioner at Our Mother of Sorrows Church in Greece and a registered nurse, added that advisory board members are of various backgrounds and that Protestant clergy have offered help.

Hospice houses provide home-like comfort care, rather than aggressive, life-prolonging treatment, to patients who are terminally ill.

Although popularly known as hospice houses, the small two-bed programs officially refer to themselves as comfort-care homes, to avoid confusion with hospice programs certified by the government for insurance reimbursement.

However, these comfort-care providers explain that they adhere to hospice philosophy, which originated in England. It centers on holistic care: physical, social, emotional and spiritual.

The name "Journey Home" comes from Tracey Jagla, the advisory board's secretary, who cared for her mother, Jeanie Premo, until she died 2½ years ago from ovarian cancer at the age of 58. Her mother died in her own Greece home; Jagla moved closer from her home in Irondequoit to provide care.

Although Monroe County has five hospice homes and surrounding counties also have a few, Jagla noted, "There is nothing like this in the western side of the county."

"It makes such a difference, to be with your own people, your own items, your own special things," she said. "We want to be a welcoming home, where a sense of love is felt when someone walks in."

Jagla, of Holy Name of Jesus Parish in Greece, has worked as a registered nurse with hospice programs for about 10 years, and is now home care coordinator at St. Mary's Hospital, through Genesee Region Home Care. Starting a hospice has been a dream of hers, and her mother encouraged her to follow through, she said. The two settled on the name Journey Home.

"She was an artist and a really great

mom. In a lot of ways this home is dedicated to her," Jagla said. "She was always my encourager."

This week, Jagla, Materise and other Journey Home supporters planned to begin mailings for funds, pledges, and volunteers to about 30,000 Greece and Charlotte residences. They say they've raised about \$5,000 toward their \$200,000 goal, and hope to have a house donated.

More funds are expected from an Aug. 12 "best ball" benefit golf tournament at Greece's Shore Acres and from their food sales at the Greece Summer Festival Aug. 24-25. In February, a concert at St. Charles Borromeo Church raised more than \$1,000, according to Materise.

Among the largest contributions was \$1,000 in seed money from Our Lady of Mercy Parish's social ministry group and \$1,600 from St. John the Evangelist Parish, Ridge Road. St. John's "adopted" the project and donated parishioners' Lenten alms. Holy Name is considering granting a portion of its tithing income, according to Jagla.

Her husband John is Journey Home's executive board president; Robert Malone of St. Pius the Tenth Parish in Chili, is vice president; and Deacon Thomas Beck of Our Mother of Sorrows, is treasurer.

Jagla noted that her mother, who taught private art lessons, painted and drew works centered on a sense of love, hope and light, and that these are terms hospice-care providers often use.

"There is hope in having a good death for the last part of your life," she explained. "You can have a good death, a pain-free death. I have seen hundreds of deaths in the last 10 years, and realistically can count on one hand how many were bad deaths. If you are loved and supported, it can be a good death, peaceful and comfortable."

EDITORS' NOTE: Reservations for the benefit golf tournament are due by Aug. 1. Tickets are \$55 and include a cart fee and chicken barbeque. Individual and corporate sponsors are welcome. Information about the tournament and Journey Home is available from Karen Materise, at 227-8137. Journey Home, Inc., is accepting mail at 7 Northwood Drive, Rochester, NY 14612.

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S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

HISTORIC AGREEMENT — Bishop Matthew H. Clark (center) shakes hands with Roberta Borg, president of the Jewish Community Federation of Greater Rochester, while Rabbi Alan J. Katz from the Board of Rabbis of Rochester looks on, at Rochester's Strong Museum May 8. The three leaders signed an agreement, believed unique in this country, to formalize long-standing cooperation and to promote communication and understanding between Catholics and Jews.

Newark concert to feature Russian artist

NEWARK — Performers Mary Arapoff and Elaine Herg Sisler will bring Russian culture to Newark May 22-24. They will present a free community concert, also featuring St. Michael School students, at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 23, at Newark High School's auditorium.

During their stay they will lead St. Michael students through traditional Russian folk tales, songs, dance, geography and history in an assembly and workshops. The

two will teach students sacred dance and music for a May crowning May 24.

Arapoff is a descendant of Leo Tolstoy and daughter of a Russian prince and painter from St. Petersburg. A soprano, her repertoire ranges from opera to Broadway. Sisler, who has a bachelor's degree in elementary education, danced professionally and is creative arts coordinator with The Education Cooperative in Wellesley, Mass.

Holy Cross hot dog fundraiser back for sixth time

ROCHESTER — Holy Cross School, 4488 Lake Ave., is holding its sixth annual fundraiser at Herrema's Bells Supermarket in Stutsen Plaza from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday, May 17, and Saturday, May 18.

Volunteers from the school will help out at the store, and sell a soda/hot dog combination for \$1. The food supplies are donated by Bells, and profits from sales go toward Holy Cross School. In years past, the school has used the mon-

ey to purchase such items as computers, according to Molly Frank, a teacher's aide whose two daughters attend the school.

The school generally raises about \$1,000 annually through its Bells fundraiser, Frank said, adding that this year's monies will probably go toward the purchase of school desks.

For more information, call the school at 716/663-6533.

MISSION NEWS

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Bishop Gasparini today at 82; he recently retired as Awasa's bishop

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