

DIOCESAN NEWS

Rally organizer dreams city will 'return to God'

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Don Faix, a member of Rochester Christian Church on Lyell Avenue, claims he had a vision from the Lord 12 years ago.

"The Lord said 'Call the churches to come together for a revival, and I will revive the churches,'" Faix said.

For years, Faix did just that, organizing ecumenical gatherings at churches throughout the Rochester area. Protestants and Catholics alike rubbed shoulders at the meetings, he said, noting his belief that Christians should look beyond denominational borders to increase their faith in their common Savior.

Faix, a veteran evangelist, said he hopes a different type of revival will begin with a Saturday, July 6, rally he is organizing. It will be held at the city's Edgerton Park, at Dewey Avenue and Bloss Street.

The rally is titled "Rochester's 100,000 Man March Back to God," but it is neither a march nor limited to males, Faix said.

"We call it '100,000 Man March' in the general sense of the word 'man' for men, women and children," he said. He added that he hopes that 100,000 people will be inspired to return to church.

"If we had 100,000 people go back to church, then we will have a tremendous spiritual and moral change in this city ...," Faix said.

He also pointed out that the march was not inspired by the Million Man March in Washington, D.C., organized by Nation

of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan last year. "We're here to proclaim Christ as Lord," Faix said of the July 6 rally.

It is planned to run from 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., and to feature Christian musical groups and speakers, including Faix and Bishop John Gimenez of the nondenominational Rock Church in Virginia Beach, Va. Gimenez has organized similar rallies in the Washington, D.C., area, Faix said.

Faix has mostly informal support from the city's Catholic and Protestant churches, but said he expected many Christians to commit to the rally as it approached.

Faix said he believes city residents will be attracted to the event because they are fed up with crime and violence. And he wants churches to realize that such residents may be hungry for spiritual guidance and would welcome door-to-door evangelism.

He added that unlike some nondenominational Christians who are wary of Catholic church beliefs, he welcomes Catholic laypeople and clergy to his gatherings and encourages Catholics to engage in door-to-door evangelism.

"Just because you believe something about Mary and I don't, that shouldn't deter us from having fellowship together," Faix said.

Christians are united in their belief that Jesus is God, that he died on the cross and was resurrected, and that repentance and belief in Christ lead to salvation, he said.

"When we all get up to heaven, we'll all be in fellowship anyway," he said.

People interested in participating in the rally can call 716/328-4472 or 723-5876.



Bill Hawken

Holy waters

In a first-time event for Church of the Epiphany in Sodus and the mission of St. Rose of Sodus Point, Bishop Matthew H. Clark joined parishioners June 29 in a blessing-of-the-boats service. Above, the bishop waves a branch bearing holy water as he blesses crafts leaving for Lake Ontario from Sodus Point Yacht Club. Father David J. Faraone, pastor of the two churches, welcomed some 75 persons attending "by land and by sea" for the blessing and a prayer service on the lawn. At left Bishop Clark greets some of the event's youngest participants.



Bishop Clark is on vacation. His "Along the Way" column will return Aug. 8.

To Renew the Ancient Faith

Support the Church in Eastern Europe

The 1996 collection to aid the Church in Eastern Europe will be available on the evening of July 6th at the rally. The collection will support the Church's struggle for renewal and growth in Eastern Europe.

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