

DIOCESAN NEWS

Program marks fifth year of aiding Hispanics

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — As manager of La Lucha, a program to persuade drug-addicted Latinos into treatment, Erica Vera can see what she's up against every day simply by looking across the street.

As she stood outside one of La Lucha's offices, at 218 Clifford Ave., she pointed out a house across the road where crack cocaine is allegedly sold.

Yet, Vera and her Spanish-speaking cohorts at La Lucha are determined to continue to live up to the name of their agency. It is Spanish for "the struggle." They work to motivate their Hispanic clients against the obstacles to recovery from their addictions, she said.

"Before they feel that they don't have a choice," she added.

La Lucha's other office is located at 55 Troup St., in the home of Catholic Family Center's Restart Substance Abuse Services. La Lucha is one of several outpatient programs offered by Restart.

This year marks La Lucha's fifth anniversary since it was established by CFC's Restart as a federally funded attempt to reach Spanish-speaking drug users on welfare or mixed up with the criminal justice system, Vera said. CFC developed La Lucha after studying the Latino community in the 1980s.

Its study found that only 4 percent of Restart's clients were Hispanics, and that they tended to seek services only during



Erica Vera, manager of La Lucha, confers with staff member Armando Carrero about a client file.

Matthew Scott/Staff photographer

crises. Hispanics also did not stay in treatment programs as long as other groups, the study found.

Vera attributed much of the Latinos' reluctance to seek treatment to a lack of English-speaking skills, a certain tolerance of alcohol abuse among Hispanics, and a desire to lead private lives in an alien non-Hispanic culture.

"Being a minority is not an easy thing to do in the (United) States, and being a minority with a substance abuse problem

is even worse," she said.

La Lucha was established with an emphasis on welcoming Latinos and making them feel at home in a recovery environment. Since then, the number of Hispanics using Restart's services has increased to 26 percent of the overall clientele. Latino women, in particular, have been increasingly using La Lucha's combination of group sessions, individual case evaluation and referrals to other drug treatment programs, Vera said. La Lucha also en-

courages clients to improve their English-speaking skills and to further their education, she said.

On average, about 160 clients come to La Lucha each year, Vera said. They also meet regularly in small groups to share their stories and to confront their addictions. Clients are often first-time drug offenders mandated to come by the courts, or welfare clients made to come by the Department of Social Services because they are unable to support themselves due to their addictions, Vera explained.

It's hard enough for many addicts to fight their addiction when they have been forced into treatment by the system, rather than seeking it voluntarily, Vera said. But there are even more difficult obstacles to recovery than their reluctance to change their lifestyles.

In particular, Vera said, it's not easy for an anti-drug program to work against the lure of easy money, sometimes up to \$5,000 a week, that an addict can make selling such drugs as heroin and crack.

"I tell the clients that they have to get a job where they may make \$5.50 an hour," Vera said. "They look at me and say 'Woman, you've got to be kidding.'"

But rehabilitation from drug use is no joke, Vera explained. Or, as she put it, five dollars an hour beats 25 years in jail for drug-related homicide.

"I leave the client with a question: 'How many times do you want to be incarcerated?'" she said. "He has the information that he can have another lifestyle."

Obituaries

Father George C. Vogt, 94; pastor, Catholic Worker leader

By Lee Strong
Associate editor

Father George C. Vogt, 94, died June 27, 1996, at St. Ann's Home, Irondequoit. The longtime pastor of Good Shepherd Church, Henrietta, and St. Joseph's Church, Rush, also was co-founder of St. Joseph's House of Hospitality in Rochester. He was the oldest priest in the diocese.

Father Vogt was born to George and Clara Staub Vogt, Feb. 25, 1902, in Rochester. He had eight sisters and brothers, two of whom also became priests: Father Francis H. Vogt and the late Msgr. Joseph R. Vogt.

Father Vogt attended Holy Redeemer School, and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, and earned a master's degree from St. Bonaventure University. He was ordained a priest June 11, 1927.

After serving as assistant pastor at Holy Family Parish (1927-30), Father Vogt became a teacher at St. Andrew's Seminary. He remained at St. Andrew's until being named diocesan director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in 1939; he also became director of the Rural Life Bureau, in 1940.

In the 1930s, inspired by Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker movement in New York City, Father Vogt, with Father Benedict Ehmann and the late Arthur Farren, helped to create study circles to examine church social encyclicals. Out of those studies grew a Catholic labor college, where Father Vogt served on the staff.

They also started a bread line to feed destitute men. They first worked out of the St. Peter Claver center on Rome Street, which was a site for catechetical and social work among African-Americans. The bread line was soon feeding some 200 people a day, and the organizers moved it to rented locations before buying the current St. Joseph's House of Hospitality building at 402 South Ave. in 1941.

Mary Farren met her husband, Art, and Father Vogt through those efforts. The two were married by Father Vogt June 5, 1943.

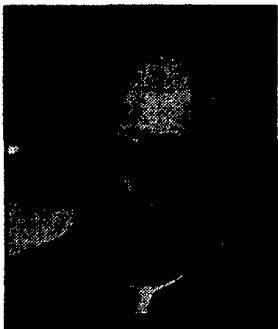
"He was very much a part of the Catholic Worker," Mary Farren said of Father Vogt.

"He had a marvelous repertoire of sto-

ries and a wonderful sense of humor," she recalled. At the same time, she added, "He was a direct man. He let you know where you stood."

Even while active with the Catholic Worker house, Father Vogt was involved with Camp Stella Maris in Livonia. There, as a counselor and a chaplain he shared his storytelling gift with campers, Farren said.

"He would tell them ghost stories," she said. "He really tickled their spines."



Father George C. Vogt

Father Vogt was named administrator of Good Shepherd Parish in March 1945, and of St. Patrick's Parish, Macedon, in September 1945. He returned to Good Shepherd Nov. 5, 1946, as pastor and also served until 1968 as pastor of its mission parish, St. Joseph's, Rush. He served Good Shepherd until June 29, 1972, when he retired from active ministry.

During his years as pastor, he guided the parishes as they rapidly grew in population. He oversaw the construction of Good Shepherd School in 1958, and an addition to it in 1964. He was also known for caring for the parish grounds, often mowing them himself.

"He was a great worker," Father Ehmann recalled. "He loved to plant and to work in the yard."

Father Vogt remained at Good Shep-

herd as pastor emeritus until 1987, when he moved to The Heritage apartments. In 1991, he moved into St. Ann's Home.

A Mass of Christ the High Priest was celebrated June 30 at Good Shepherd Church, with Bishop Dennis W. Hickey presiding; Bishop Matthew H. Clark was principal celebrant at a July 1 funeral Mass in the church chapel. Interment was in the priests' section of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

In addition to his parents and his brother, Msgr. Vogt, Father Vogt was predeceased by brothers Otto, Carl and Robert, and sisters Irene, Lucille and Agnita. He is survived by one brother, Father Francis Vogt, and several nieces and nephews.

Donations in memory of Father Vogt may be made to St. Joseph's House of Hospitality — The Catholic Worker, P.O. Box 1062, Rochester, NY 14603.

Donald S. Miller, 72; helped elderly, monasteries

Donald S. Miller, a lifelong parishioner of Rochester's Holy Family Parish and a volunteer for monastic and elderly care institutions, died at his Gates home of heart failure on June 8, 1996. He was 72.

Miller attended Holy Family School and Aquinas Institute, Rochester. A photography buff, he worked for Haloid Company, which later became Xerox, for more than 30 years. According to a statement from his relatives, he spent many hours visiting elderly neighbors who were infirm.

Miller volunteered at St. Ann's Home for the elderly in Irondequoit. He also gathered fruits and vegetables from area farms to give to Holy Ghost and Holy Family convents in Rochester; the Discalced Carmelites at the Monastery of Our Lady and St. Joseph in Pittsford; and the Trappists at Our Lady of the Genesee Abbey in Piffard.

"He had a very strong faith," said his niece, Mary Lou Miller, of West Henrietta. She noted that her uncle went to Mass daily.

Two years ago, her uncle suffered a

stroke and became home-bound, she reported. Yet he spent time writing letters of prayer and encouragement.

Miller is survived by his sisters Irene, Mildred and Agnes; his brother Herbert; his nieces Mary Lou, and Ann Marie; a nephew, George R. (Christine) Miller; and several cousins, grandnephews, grandnieces and great-grandnieces. He was predeceased by his sisters Martha Miller and Louise (George) Miller, and by his brothers Joseph and Norbert.

Father Walter H. Principe, CSB, 73; noted academic, author, scholar

Father Walter H. Principe, CSB, a noted author and scholar, died May 8, 1996, in Houston. He was 73.

A native of Rochester, where he graduated from Aquinas Institute, Father Principe attended St. Michael's College in Toronto. He graduated with first-class honors in the political science and economics program, and then received a master's degree in philosophy from the University of Toronto and a licentiate in

medieval studies from the Pontifical Institute of Medieval Studies.

He also obtained a doctorate in medieval studies after several years of study in Paris and Toronto.

Father Principe was ordained in 1949 and served as a Basilian priest for 46 years. His teaching career began in 1949, and he eventually became a full professor at St. Michael's College and the University of Toronto.

Father Principe received several research grants including a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Canada Council Research Grant. His many honors include the John Courtney Murray Award from The Catholic Theological Society of America.

His publications include five books. Memorial contributions may be sent to Aquinas Institute's Developmental Fund, 1127 Dewey Ave., Rochester, NY 14613.