

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Tompkins County community mourns slain teens

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Father John H. Hayes said it was the largest congregation that he had ever faced.

He added that it was also the most difficult sermon he'd been called upon to deliver.

Speaking before a gathering of approximately 5,000 people, Father Hayes attempted to offer words of consolation for a grieving Tompkins County community devastated by the brutal slayings of two 16-year-old girls.

Sarah A. Hajney and Jennifer L. Bolduc were remembered at a memorial service Oct. 11 at Dryden High School, where both were students. They were also parishioners at Dryden's Holy Cross Church, where Father Hayes serves as administrator.

The priest recalled during his homily that, when he arrived at Holy Cross Church in June 1995, he thought his comfortable rural surroundings could be likened to Paradise.

However, he said, this sense of security has now vanished — and that the "safety of living in a small town has been taken away from us."

"I've never seen pain the depth of this, and hope I never do again," Father Hayes later remarked to the *Catholic Courier*. "(Last week) was the toughest week of my priesthood."

According to published reports, Sarah and Jennifer were abducted on Oct. 4 from the Hajney residence in McLean, four miles north of Dryden. They were reported missing by their parents when they failed to show up for school that day. That weekend, the reports said, New



Father John H. Hayes

York State Police began to discover mutilated body parts spread over a four-mile area in northern Chenango County, 30 miles east of where Sarah and Jennifer resided. Police confirmed on Oct. 7 that the teens were dead.

Later on Oct. 7, police arrested 31-year-old John Andrews, a neighbor of the Hajneys. He was being held without bail on a first-degree kidnapping charge.

Andrews, who has resided in the neighborhood for more than a year, was married and had a young son. Published reports said that the Dryden native was convicted in 1991 of burglary, aggravated assault and housebreaking charges while serving in the U.S. Air Force after breaking into an apartment and assaulting a woman with a barbell. He served 3½ years in military prison and was dishon-

orably discharged in 1994.

During the Oct. 4 memorial service, Father Hayes cautioned students not to take out their grief through such self-destructive behavior as drugs, alcohol or suicide. "If we do this, we give the person who caused this pain more victims," he pointed out.

The pastor told the *Courier* that funeral services for Sarah and Jennifer will not be scheduled until further police investigations are completed.

He added that the tragedy has drawn nationwide attention to a community that will continue to grieve for a long time to come.

"All I can say to people in the diocese is to keep praying," Father Hayes commented.

**EDITORS' NOTE:** A memorial fund has been established in the teens' names to help their families. Donations may be forwarded to the Sarah Ann Hajney-Jennifer Lynn Bolduc Memorial Fund, c/o the First National Bank of Dryden, P.O. Box 25, Dryden, N.Y., 13053.

### SAN changes its name to 'Interfaith-Action'

The Social Action Network, a federation of 18 Catholic and non-Catholic churches and neighborhood-based organizations in Monroe County, has adopted a new name — Interfaith Action, or Inter-Act.

Over the past few years, when it was known as SAN, the organization headed various community efforts to establish drug rehabilitation treatment in Monroe County and to better police drug-infested neighborhoods.

Brian Kane, the federation's lead organizer, said the name change recognizes that the network, formed as an all-Catholic group, now includes non-Catholic members as well.

"I think there was always a desire to be an interfaith organization," Kane said. He noted that two Protestant churches belong to the federation now.

He added that suggestions for the name change came from members at both the federation's grassroots and leadership levels.

— Rob Cullivan

### Obituaries

#### Marcella Ennis; noted Nazareth College graduate

Marcella Ennis, a member of the first graduating class at Nazareth College and a longtime community activist in the Rochester area, died Sept. 29, 1996, at her home in Greece. She was 90.

Mrs. Ennis was among 15 members of Nazareth College's inaugural set of graduates. She also received a master's degree in library science from Syracuse University, and returned to Nazareth College where she was a librarian for 10 years. She was honored in 1993 with the college's Outstanding Alumna Award.

Mrs. Ennis was known for her community service work with the St. Joseph's

House of Hospitality, a Rochester-based soup kitchen and Catholic Worker house she helped to establish. She was also actively involved in the Landmark Society of Rochester.

In addition, Mrs. Ennis enjoyed writing letters to the editor of Rochester-area newspapers, including the *Catholic Courier*. She wrote briefly for the *Courier* in the 1960s.

Bishop Dennis W. Hickey, diocesan auxiliary bishop, recalled that Mrs. Ennis was a dedicated parishioner at Holy Name of Jesus Church in Greece. In fact, Bishop Hickey, who often assists at weekday Masses at that parish, said Mrs. Ennis attended

Mass just four days prior to her death despite needing the assistance of a nurse and a walker.

"She had a very active mind. She was very sharp and wrote well," Bishop Hickey said. "Despite her 90 years, she was still thinking young."

Services and burial for Mrs. Ennis were private. A memorial Mass was held Oct. 12 at Holy Name of Jesus Church.

Mrs. Ennis is survived by her daughter Ann, of Greece; daughter Frances Parthoens, of Greece; son Lawrence, of Missouri; 17 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

#### Sister Mary Andrew Palange, SSJ; served as teacher, volunteer

Sister Mary Andrew Palange, SSJ, who taught for 44 years at diocesan elementary schools, died Sept. 19, 1996, at the St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary in Pittsford. She was 85.

An Elmira native, Sister Mary Andrew entered the Sisters of St. Joseph out of St. Anthony's Parish in 1927. She earned a baccalaureate degree from Nazareth College of Rochester.

After she discontinued full-time teaching, Sister Mary Andrew was a substitute teacher for another 10 years. She was also a telephone volunteer for the STAR program for shut-ins. Sister Mary Andrew retired in 1993.

A funeral Mass for Sister Mary Andrew was celebrated Sept. 23 at the mother-house chapel, with Father John A. DeSocio presiding. He was assisted by Msgr. J. Emmett Murphy, and Fathers John S. Hayes, D. Joseph Donovan and Donald J. Curtiss.

Sister Mary Andrew is survived by nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, and her sisters in the Congregation of St. Joseph.

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