

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Diocese to host anti-racism event

The Diocese of Rochester will host the third of four national ecumenical "Building Bridges" dialogues designed to address growing tension between African-American and Hispanic/Latino communities.

The conference will be held Nov. 7-9, at the Auditorium Theatre, 875 E. Main St., Rochester.

In addition, a separate effort, the ecumenical "Beyond Racism Project" continues Oct. 31, with an African Heritage Leadership Retreat at Rochester's Mount Vernon Baptist Church. A concert Oct. 26 at West Avenue United Methodist Church launched the project and promoted a compact disc of local music produced to support the project.

The leadership retreat will be led by the National Coalition Building Institute International. A "Persons of Color Dialogue," also will be scheduled later. Deacon Bill Coffey of St. Mary's Church serves with the core group for the project, which is supported by the Greater Rochester Community of Churches, the Interfaith Forum and other organizations.

Both the national and local program to overcome racism welcome public partici-

pation. Further information about the African Heritage Retreat is available from Charmaine Bennett, 716/247-5183.

Registration for "Building Bridges" should be made with Jacqueline Dobson, director of the Office of Black Catholic Ministries (716/328-3210). Individuals will be asked to pay what they can toward registration fees, Dobson said.

Dobson said the dialogue is not limited to Catholics, and is open to leaders of both African-American and Hispanic communities, as well as to anyone working with the two communities. Dobson will be co-host with Brother Luis Ruberte, director of the diocesan Spanish Apostolate.

National conveners Roberto Pina and Father Clarence Williams, CPPS, will kick off the conference Thursday, Nov. 7. Pina is a teacher at the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio; Father Williams is director of Black Catholic Ministries for the Archdiocese of Detroit, and has spoken at St. Mary's Church in Rochester.

"In the multicultural dynamism of many of our urban centers, Hispanics in the 70's and 80's, repeated the pattern of moving from the South as did African

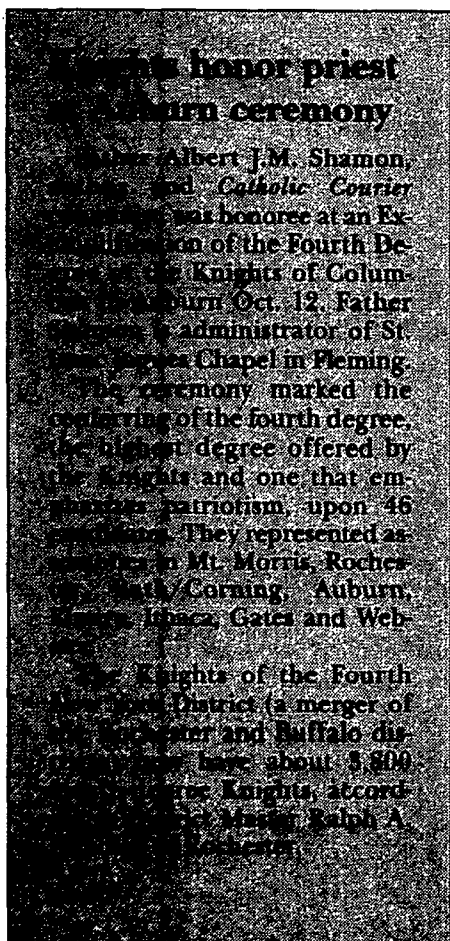
Americans in the 40's and 50's," the two stated in a registration booklet. Thus there is increasing contact between the two cultures, they noted, and increased competition for jobs. "This growing tension between Black and Brown people is fueled by their mutual desire to strive, to survive and improve the circumstances of their families and the conditions of their lives."

Joining the two will be education researcher Jose Hilario Cedillos; Rose Duhon-Sells, president of the Association of Teacher Educators; Sonia Plata, of the race relations division of New Detroit Inc.; Deacon John Stewart, president of the National Association of African American Catholic Deacons; and Rudy Vargas IV, executive director for Catholic Lay Leadership Formation in Brooklyn.

The dialogue will include talks on the church as a bridge, multicultural education, and youth coming together. It will conclude with a "cultural sharing of food and dance" at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9.

Previous conferences were held in San Antonio and Detroit; the fourth one will be held in Los Angeles in 1997.

- Kathleen Schwarz



## Obituaries

### Edwin B. Metzger Sr., longtime St. Michael's parishioner

As part of his 96th birthday celebration, Edwin B. Metzger Sr. ventured out onto the lawn at St. Ann's Home/The Heritage in Irondequoit the afternoon of Aug. 25. There he enjoyed the sun and the company of his family: his son Father Edwin Metzger Jr., on a two-month leave from Kenya where he had been working with Maryknoll, grandson Ted Miller, his grandson's wife, Abigail, and the couple's two golden retrievers.

"He was out on the lawn, watching the dogs frolic and had a hamburger," Father Metzger recalled. "It was a very nice day."

Mr. Metzger died Sept. 23, 1996, at St. Ann's. Father Metzger, who had returned to Kenya, said he was sorry that he was not



File photo  
Edwin B. Metzger (from left), Ted Miller and Father Edwin Metzger Jr.

with his father when he died. But, he added, "There's something to be said for looking back at those two months that made up for it. It was a wonderful review of a happy relationship."

Born in Rochester Aug. 29, 1900, Mr. Metzger was a longtime member of St. Michael's Parish, Rochester. He met his late wife, Florence Kesel Metzger, at St. Michael's School. The two married June 23, 1926. The couple had two children: Father Metzger and Doris Metzger Miller of Austin, Texas.

Mr. Metzger was a trustee and an usher at St. Michael's for many years. When his son was named pastor of Holy Redeemer Church in 1975, he began attending there. He remained with that parish when it was consolidated with Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish, and then with Rochester's Community of Hope until he entered the Heritage in 1985.

For years, Mr. Metzger operated Metzger Brothers, a picture-framing company started by his father and uncle. He also volunteered at St. Michael's Woodshop, teaching woodworking skills to inner-city youths.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark was the principle celebrant at the funeral Mass for Mr. Metzger Sept. 30 at St. Michael's Church. Father Metzger was one of the concele-

brants. Interment was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

In addition to his son, daughter, grandson and granddaughter-in-law, Mr. Metzger is survived by a granddaughter, Amy Blecker of Austin; a great-grandchild, Emelia Blecker of Austin; and several cousins.

- Lee Strong

### R. Muccigrosso; Tier parishioner

Rosemary A. Muccigrosso, a longtime parishioner at the Church of St. Mary Our Mother in Horseheads, died Sept. 21, 1996, at her Horseheads home. Miss Muccigrosso, an Elmira native, was active in community affairs and was also a member of the Rosary and Altar Society at St. Mary Our Mother. She also helped organize a weekly gathering of parishioners for recitation of the rosary. That group still meets.

A memorial Mass for Miss Muccigrosso was held Sept. 24 at St. Mary Our Mother. Interment was at St. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Elmira.

Miss Muccigrosso is survived by her sisters, Sara and Mary Louise Muccigrosso of Horseheads; brother, Louis Muccigrosso of Horseheads; sister-in-law, Manuella Muccigrosso of Pennsylvania; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

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