

DIOCESAN NEWS

Bishop to celebrate Rite of Election

Bishop Matthew H. Clark will celebrate the Rite of Election in a series of five ceremonies scheduled from Rochester to Bath and Ithaca between Feb. 16 and 23.

More than 680 individuals — ages 6 to 73 — are preparing to take part in the rite services this Lent. The 199 children and 482 adults represent 101 parishes.

The Rite of Election, part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process, represents the transition from the catechumenate, or introduction and instruction phase, to intense prayer and study that prepare one for the sacraments at Easter.

The Lenten ceremonies will include af-

firmation of candidates for full Communion and continuing conversion.

"The Rites show us a vibrant expression of faith in modern times," said Barbara Carroll, diocesan coordinator of sacramental catechesis. "Each year, as the diocese welcomes hundreds of new members, we can see the health of the local church."

Scheduled ceremonies include two in the Southern Tier this year, to increase convenience for participants. Celebrants will be joined by their families, catechists, godparents and sponsors for the ceremonies.

Services are scheduled for:

- 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, at Sacred Heart Cathedral (for Ontario, Wayne and northern Livingston and Monroe counties)

- 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 16, at Sacred Heart Cathedral (for southeast and northeast Monroe County)

- 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, at Sacred Heart Cathedral (for northwest and southwest Monroe County)

- 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19, at St. Mary's, Bath (for Steuben, Yates, Chemung and southern Livingston counties) and

- 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, at St. Catherine's, Ithaca (for Tompkins, Tioga, Seneca, Cayuga and Schuyler counties).



Matthew Scott/Staff photographer

Obituaries

Sister Rose Mary Fitzgerald; taught for 36 years

Sister Rose Mary Fitzgerald, RSM, who served in the Rochester Sisters of Mercy for 63 years, died Jan. 1, 1997. She was 84.

A Rochester native, Sister Rose Mary was received into the Sisters of Mercy in 1933. She professed her final vows in 1938.

Sister Rose Mary spent 36 years teaching in diocesan schools. Her longest stint was at St. Andrew's School



in Rochester, where she spent 18 consecutive years.

Her last years of active ministry were spent at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Greece, where

she served as a teacher, tutor, parish visitor and parish volunteer. She retired to the Sister of Mercy motherhouse in 1985.

A funeral Mass was held Jan. 3, at the Sisters of Mercy motherhouse. Interment was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Sister Rose Mary is survived by several cousins, as well as her sisters in the congregation of Mercy. Memorial donations can be made to the Sisters of Mercy, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester, N.Y., 14610.

Holy smoke

Father John Philipps leads singing at St. Bridget/St. Joseph Church, East Bloomfield, Feb. 9 as palms that parishioners returned from last year's Palm Sunday distribution are burned. The ashes were to be used on Ash Wednesday.

Father Coccia, SJ; taught at McQuaid

Father Orestes Paul Coccia, SJ, who taught at McQuaid Jesuit High School, died Nov. 17, 1996, at Campion Hall, the Jesuit residence at the University of Scranton, Pa.

Born Jan. 26, 1932, in Villavallelonga, Italy, to the late Francis and Nancy Coccia, he moved to the United States at the age of 6. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1951, and was ordained a priest in 1965. He taught Latin, Greek and French at Canisius High School in Buffalo (1958-1961), and at McQuaid (1961-62, 1967-68) before teach-

ing at Canisius College, and then joined the University of Scranton faculty in 1975.

Father Coccia is survived by two brothers, Vincent and Angelo, both of Rochester, and a sister, Maryann Tantalio, of Toronto. He was predeceased by two brothers, Justin and Frank Jr.

A memorial service was celebrated Jan. 25, at Holy Family Church, Rochester.

The family requests that memorial contributions be made to St. Francis House, 415 Ames St., Rochester N.Y. 14611.

Bro. Di Santo; winemaker, electrician

Brother Ignatius Di Santo, a Divine Word missionary and native of Clyde, died Jan. 12, 1997, at the Divine Word mission in Alexishafen, Papua New Guinea. He was 95.

One of 17 children born to Nicholas and Cherubina Salerno Di Santo, he was in the first graduating class of St. John's School in Clyde. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1923 and served on destroyers after completing electrician school.

Brother Di Santo entered the Society of the Divine Word at Techny, Ill., in 1932. He was assigned to the farm and vineyards in Conesus where a new mission house was opened, and worked as a winemaker in what

became known as the Oneida Winery on Hemlock Lake. He later served in Borden-town, N.J.

In 1947 he was sent to the foreign missions in Papua New Guinea. At Alexishafen he was power plant operator, diesel operator and longshoreman for ships supplying the mission.

He is survived by two brothers, Bernard of Clyde and Gilbert of Covina, Calif. He was predeceased by his brothers Victor, John, Joseph, Rocco, Frank and Ubaldo, and by his sister Stephanina.

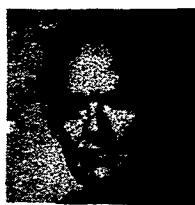
His funeral and burial were in Alexishafen.

MISSION NEWS

India's young and poor Diocese of Sivagangai is blessed with some 100 priests. More than 300 Sisters are serving there also, as nurses, teachers of the faith and social workers. Lay catechists and volunteers serve among the Catholic people and bring the "good news" of Christ to others in the villages. Bishop Edward Francis of Sivagangai sums up the spirit: "We are doing our best to proclaim the good news, to bring the people of this region closer to Christ our Lord." This holy work goes on worldwide today — and must continue in the future.



Through a Gift Annuity with the Propagation of the Faith, you can help the future missionary work of the Church — and you benefit as well. A Gift Annuity with the Propagation of the Faith can provide you with income for the rest of your life at a favorable rate of return. Please write for more information.



Bishop William J. McCormack



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LENTEN DINING GUIDE

For 7 Fridays during Lent, starting Valentine's Day, we are open additional hours for Fish Fries from 4pm-8pm serving Haddock, Veggie Burgers and Pasta Specials.

Bring this coupon for a free soda, coffee, or tea with meal.

Rogers House

RESTAURANT
271 Central Park (near Public Market)

Open year round for breakfast & lunch

Tuesday - Friday, 6:30am-2:30pm
Saturday, 6:30am-2:00pm
Sunday, 8:00am-2:00pm

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MANNEQUINS

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THE BOPPED KETTLE RESTAURANT

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Valentine's Day
Special
Michael Todd
6:30 - 8:30pm
Reservations Recommended