

DIOCESAN NEWS

Pro-life activists hailed, anointed at prayer service

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Approximately 400 pro-life activists attended a two-hour diocesan-sponsored prayer service Feb. 25 led by Bishop Matthew H. Clark at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester.

The "Evening Prayer for Life" was organized by the diocesan consistent life ethic and liturgy offices, as well as pro-life activists.

The evening began with a rosary recitation led by Father Anthony Mugavero, pastor of St. Bridget's Church in Rochester. The Morningstar Folk Group from St. Joseph's Church in Penfield performed at the service along with cantor Kristine Mich and organist Rick Ramirez.

The evening included readings and intercessory prayers and concluded with an "anointing for service" by Bishop Clark, who was assisted by his secretary, Father Tim Brown, and Father Brown's father, Robert Brown.

In an interview with the *Catholic Courier*, the bishop said his homily was intended to express gratitude to everyone in the diocese who works to eliminate abortion and to heal its effects.

"I know they work very hard and don't always see the fruit of their efforts," Bishop Clark said he told pro-life activists.

Suzanne Schnittman, diocesan consistent life ethic coordinator, said the bishop's words at the service were inspiring to pro-life activists.



Kurt Brownell

Bishop Matthew H. Clark anoints one of the 400 pro-life activists who attended the diocese's "Evening Prayer for Life" Feb. 25 at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

"He encouraged us to all stay in the struggle for life even when we meet roadblocks to that struggle," she said.

Bishop Clark also said he quoted from section 99 of Pope John Paul II's 1995 encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* - "The Gospel of Life." The bishop cited the passage in which the pope addressed women who had had abortions:

"You will come to understand that nothing is definitely lost, and you will be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is now living in the Lord."

The bishop said he mentioned the pope's words because many people involved in abortion are burdened by guilt and need to know that their children are now with God.

The bishop said his homily also tied together abortion with other such threats to life as the death penalty, poverty, euthanasia, violence and war. No one can focus all of his or her energies on all the threats to human life, he said, so all life activists should pray for and support one another.

"When we focus on one issue, we must not forget the efforts of others on other issues," he said. "I think efforts on one strengthen us all."

Mich said the service helped to spiritually unify activists who don't always see eye to eye on every life issue. Mich is a member of the board of directors of two secular consistent life ethic organizations - Common Ground of Upstate New York and the Consistent Life Awareness Fund. She said pro-life activists from different organizations are sometimes divided when they don't agree on such issues as the death penalty.

"We were able to come together in a common place and pray together, and that's a positive thing," she said.

Bob Dorscheid, a member of the Pro-Life Planning Committee, a group that organizes Stations of the Cross emphasizing pro-life themes every year on Good Friday in Rochester, thought that the vast majority of those attending the service subscribed to the consistent life ethic. Yet, whatever the participants' views, he said the service was an uplifting experience for all involved.

"I thought it was great," said Dorscheid whose wife, Amy, gave the intercessory prayer. "I was quite impressed by the way it was done."

Obituary

Sr. Grace Geisler, SSJ, 84; chaired biology department

Sister Grace Geisler, SSJ, former chairwoman of the biology department at Nazareth College, died at St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary in Pittsford on Jan. 7, 1997. She was 84.

Sister Grace entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Charles Borromeo Parish

in Greece in 1932. She earned her bachelor's degree from Nazareth College in 1939, and a master's degree in biology from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., in 1941, where she also received a doctorate in parasitology and biochemistry.

Sister Grace taught biology at Nazareth College for 44 years, and served as chairwoman of its biology department from 1943 to 1979, when she retired. The current chairman of the department, Father Matthew Temple, O.Carm., spoke highly of Sister Grace.

"She was really one of those memorable

and brilliant trained biologists that we joke about being a one-woman department," he said. "But it wasn't a joke."

A well-rounded researcher who could convey her knowledge in plain English, Sister Grace was also a fine Christian and colleague, Father Temple said.

"She was incredibly gentle and patient," he said. "I never saw her once anything but serene and unruffled."

Along the path of her career, she became a member of such organizations as the American Institute of Biological Societies, the National Association of Biology Teachers, the New York Academy of Science, the American Society of Microbiology and the Rochester Academy of Sciences.

Sister Grace was also listed in various edi-

tions of *Leaders of American Science*, *Who's Who of American Women*, *Who's Who in the East*, *Who's Who in American Education* and *American Men and Women of Science*. In addition, she served on several state and national committees and was a visiting professor at various summer institutes.

Sister Grace is survived by four brothers, William (Agnes), Joseph (Lucille), Edmund and John; five sisters, Rita (LaVerne) Jackson, Lillian Blake, Florence (Edward) Dunn, Mary (Fred) Andre and Vera Geisler; two sisters-in-law, Lillian and Dorothy Geisler, several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews; and her fellow Sisters of St. Joseph.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at the motherhouse chapel on Jan. 10.



LENTEN SERIES

Wednesday
March 12, 12:15 pm Mass

Guest Homilist

Bruce Colburn,
Interfaith Jail Ministry
How the Church of Rochester is ministering to those in jail

Coffee hour in the rectory immediately following mass.

CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

534 Oxford Street • Rochester

HART MONUMENT COMPANY
Since 1856

Monuments, Markers and Cemetery Lettering

2301 Dewey Avenue
(OPPOSITE HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY)
(716) 865-6746

Share a Great Compassion



Sr. Alma Marie
Native of: Philippines

"I became aware of God's call when I was going to college. I thank God for leading me to this Community. I believe that this is where I can love and serve Him best."



Sr. Margaret
Native of: Louisville, Kentucky
Prior Experience: Registered Nurse

"I was initially attracted to the idea that the Sisters cared for the patients themselves. And then, when I visited, I saw the loving concern and joyfulness of the Sisters, and their strong prayer life. I am very blessed to be a part of this God-centered Community."

WE SEEK WOMEN WHO ARE GROWING IN THEIR LOVE OF GOD, AND DESIRE TO JOIN A COMMUNITY WITH A STRONG SPIRITUAL, APOSTOLIC AND COMMUNITY LIFE.

Living our vows and participating in the life of the Church by prayer and sacraments gives us the ability to serve God in this apostolate.

We nurse incurable cancer patients in our seven free, modern nursing homes, located in Ohio, New York, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Massachusetts, and Minnesota.

Many who enter our community have no prior nursing experience, but we all share a great compassion for the suffering poor and delight at being able to help them.

For More Information About our Congregation Write:

Sr. Marie Edward
Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne
600 Linda Avenue
Hawthorne, NY 10732
(914) 769-4734

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE () _____

DiMaria Travel

1521 MONROE AVE

271-0100

BRANSON

Escorted by DiMaria Travel

- Round trip air, round trip transfers between airport/hotel, plus all taxes/gratuities
- 4 nights at the Branson Towers
- 3 hour sightseeing tour of Branson
- Ride the Duck Boat trip
- 7 shows
- 4 breakfasts, 4 dinners

April 23-27, 1997



CANADIAN ROCKIES

All inclusive package

- air, hotel, motorcoach, comprehensive sightseeing, meals, and much more.

Don't Delay!

July 28-August 7, 1997