

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Catholic Charities helps secure housing grant

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Significant state and city grants will enable construction to begin this spring for 10 single-family houses on Elmira's east side.

This opportunity for first-time, income-eligible home buyers was made possible when the New York State Affordable Housing Corporation approved \$200,000 in funding in late February. The grant was secured by the Providence Housing Development Corporation, a member agency of the Diocese of Rochester's Catholic Charities office.

In addition, the City of Elmira will put \$140,000 toward the \$649,000 project, according to Maggie Bringewatt, Providence Housing's executive director.

Providence Housing had originally applied for a \$250,000 grant from the state's Affordable Housing Corporation in November 1996. However, Bringewatt explained, the actual grant was \$50,000 lower because "Elmira is not a high-cost area, so we were not able to receive funding from the state at a high-cost level."

Also collaborating in this effort are Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier, Chemung Canal Trust Company and the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York.

The houses will be located near the corner of Sullivan and Fifth streets. Bringewatt said that construction on two model homes will begin in May and they could be ready for occupation by the end of the summer. She noted that eight additional

homes will eventually be built in the same area, with four styles of houses available.

In order to qualify for purchasing these homes, families must make between 50 and 90 percent of area median income, or \$18,650 to \$34,920 for a family of four. Subsidies of up to \$20,000 will be provided on a sliding-scale basis by the Affordable Housing Corporation, and down payment and closing cost assistance will be available on a similar basis through Chemung Canal Trust Company.

Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier will assist in this venture through its First Time Home Buyers Program. This service provides education for prospective homeowners, covering such areas as pre-purchase counseling and budgeting.

"We go right through every step with

them. The better the education, the better the buyer," said Marilyn Terkoski, housing counselor and advocate for Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier.

Terkoski noted that the new housing project is a major step forward for the city, where there's been scant development since the great flood of 1972, which destroyed or severely damaged thousands of Elmira homes.

"It's very exciting for the area. There are some beautiful new homes being built, and they're affordable," Terkoski said.

"This is a significant development. It provides more affordable housing options for Elmira, and at the same time it builds the tax base," Bringewatt added.



Kerry Huller

### Living the Passion

Youth of St. Theodore's Church, Rochester, reenacted Jesus' way to the cross in the Living Stations of the Cross March 23. (Above) Jesus, (Jeff LaJuett), meets his mother, (Melissa Kwiatkowski), who is being consoled by the Apostle John (Matt Pernot) as soldiers (left to right) Brad Rhow, Eric Phillips, David Landers and John Nam look on. (Right) LaJuett depicts the resurrection of Jesus Christ.



### Bishop Clark to speak on March 29 program

Bishop Matthew H. Clark is scheduled to deliver a special Easter message Saturday, March 29, on the radio program, "Good Morning, God."

The program, hosted by Sister Joan Sobala, SSJ, is broadcast every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. on radio station WSWG-AM 1460 in Rochester.

### New chaplain is named at St. Joseph's Hospital

Father Joseph Brodnick has been named the new chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira.

Father Brodnick began his duties on Feb. 3. He replaces Father Rick Farrell, who became the pastor at St. Mary's Church in Elmira on Jan. 1.

Father Brodnick's previous experience includes pastoral work at parishes in his home Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio, as well as chaplain services at St. Thomas Medical Center in Akron, Ohio. Most recently he worked at Parish Data System, Inc., in Phoenix, Ariz., where he helped develop software for parishes to manage their census and stewardship.

### Volunteers are needed at Boys and Girls Club

The Boys and Girls Club of Rochester, Inc., is seeking female volunteers to assist with girls ages 12-18.

The club is located at 500 Genesee St., Rochester. Those interested in volunteering should contact Mark Gilliam at 716/328-3077.

## Celebrating a milestone anniversary? Let us know

The *Catholic Courier* is looking for couples celebrating milestone wedding anniversaries in 1997.

Couples who will be marking 25, 50, 60, 65, 70, 75, etc. years of marriage in 1997 will be listed in a special Milestones supplement April 17, along with priests and women religious celebrating jubilees this year.

In addition, the *Courier* would like to highlight the couple married longest in the diocese.

If you or a couple you know will be marking a milestone anniversary this year, or might be in the running for the longest married couple, send the following information to the *Courier*:

Full names of both husband and wife;

Date of wedding;  
Church and city where married.  
Also include a telephone number in case any questions arise.

Deadline for inclusion in the list of couples is April 3.

Send all information to: *Catholic Courier*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

## Obituary

### Esther Cleary, 82; served as McQuaid receptionist from 1955 to 1991

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

In the 1950s, when the Jesuits were scouting around Rochester for a possible high school site, they spotted a woman sitting at a desk in a field on South Clinton Avenue and decided to build the school around her.

So goes the legend about the late Esther M. Cleary, who worked at McQuaid Jesuit High School as a receptionist, switchboard operator and assistant to the treasurer from 1955 to 1991, according to Father Francis J. McNamara, SJ, McQuaid's alumni moderator. Cleary died Feb. 10, 1997, after a long battle with cancer. She was 82.

A native of Rochester, and a longtime parishioner at Corpus Christi Church, Cleary was a member of the second graduating class at Our Lady of Mercy High School in Brighton, according to her first



cousin, Patricia M. O'Shea of Rochester. That class graduated in 1933.

"She was ever loyal, ever true to good old Mercy," O'Shea said. In an obituary she had prepared herself — relatives found it after her death — Cleary wrote that she wanted to be remembered as a graduate of Mercy and a retiree of McQuaid, Father McNamara said.

Cleary was the daughter of the late John and Mary Ryan Cleary of Rochester. When her brother Leo was 16, he and their mother passed away, O'Shea said, leaving Cleary and her sister, the late Helen Kolbeck, to help their father care for their family.

"Esther, being the eldest, became kind of the surrogate mother for the family,"

she said, noting that the family included five surviving young boys at the time.

Cleary's maternal love for her siblings was echoed in an almost maternal love for the students at McQuaid, Father McNamara said.

"She kind of adopted the boys who went through McQuaid," the priest said. "They all knew her."

Father McNamara described Cleary as a "formidable woman" with a "prodigious memory," and he added that her strong-willed demeanor was legendary among the McQuaid community. He noted, for example, that when health problems made it harder for her to walk in her later years, Cleary was vocally protective of the parking space reserved for her near the school's entrance.

"God help anybody who took the place she had staked out," he said. "Someone said she was probably bickering with St. Peter over a parking space now."

O'Shea said Cleary liked to sing, and sang at weddings, funerals and other gatherings.

"She had a beautiful singing voice," O'Shea said. "Whenever we had a family gathering, we always had a singfest, and Esther always sang."

In addition to her sister, Helen, Cleary was predeceased by her brothers Jack, Leo, Donald and Richard. She is survived by her brothers, Eugene of Bremen, Ky., and Bernard of Metairie, La.; and her sister-in-law, Mildred W. Cleary of Webster; also, nephews, nieces and cousins.

A funeral Mass was celebrated at Corpus Christi Church on Feb. 13. Interment will take place at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Victor this spring.

Memorial donations may be sent to Mercy High School, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14610, or McQuaid Jesuit High School, 1800 S. Clinton Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14618.