

DIOCESAN NEWS

Greece home for dying nears approval, move

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

GREECE — Before she died three years ago, Jeanie Premo challenged her daughter, Tracey Jagla, to establish a home where terminally ill people could receive personal care and help in approaching death.

A parishioner at Holy Name of Jesus Parish — and a registered nurse who works at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester — Jagla said she is on the verge of meeting her mother's challenge.

"If it wasn't for (my mother), we wouldn't be in this position right now," Jagla said of herself and a fellow nurse, Karen "Charlie" Materise.

The two are working as co-executive directors to establish Journey Home, a home for the dying, in Greece.

Both women said they expected the Town of Greece's Planning Board to give final approval July 9 to site plans for the not-for-profit "comfort care" facility. Greece has already granted Journey Home, Inc., a special permit to operate the privately funded facility, they said. It will house up to two patients at a time.

"I'm just so heart-warmed that our vision is becoming a reality," Jagla added.

Larry Reichhart, Greece's planning board clerk, contacted before the July 9 meeting, said board members had spoken positively of the proposed home.

"They're filling a great need," Reichhart said of Journey Home's directors.

Jagla will work full-time, and Materise, part-time, as supervisors of Journey Home, and the home will employ a part-time nurse, they said. Trained volunteers and volunteer medical professionals will also work at the home, they said.

Journey Home will accept individuals who have a prognosis of less than three months to live. The home will give priority to patients who have no finances or family to enable them to receive care, or who have no home, Jagla and Materise said.

Journey Home will also take terminally ill people whose families are unable to care for them anymore at home, they added.

The home will be in a three-bedroom



Matthew Scott/Staff photographer

Tracey Jagla (left) and Karen Materise, anticipating final site plan approval for a Greece "comfort care" house, joke about the next step: moving the building more than 100 feet.

ranch house at Vintage Lane and Long Pond Road. The house was donated to Journey Home by the Perotto family, owners of Bartolomeo Funeral Home, the two directors said; Journey Home will rent a plot from the Perottos for \$1 per year.

The directors said the donated house must be moved more than 100 feet to make room for a new funeral home to be built. They said they hope to have the house moved as soon as site plans are approved, and begin renovations. Journey Home is slated to open in early 1998.

Jagla met Materise, a parishioner at Our Mother of Sorrows at Paddy Hill Church,

while both were working in hospice care more than a decade ago. The two women have worked the last two years on Journey Home. The duo has recruited more than 600 volunteers for various types of assistance, including members of the Rochester Building and Construction Trades Council who will renovate the home, they said.

The directors added that almost 30 Catholic and Protestant churches have donated funds and materials to the project. Private groups and individuals have also donated funds, they said.

The two directors estimated it will take \$56,000 to complete Journey Home and

\$120,000 a year to operate it. To help meet their financial needs, Journey Home's organizers have scheduled their second annual fundraising golf tournament. The first tournament, held last summer, raised \$3,600, Materise said.

Slated for Monday, Aug. 11, at Lake Shore Country Club on Greenleaf Road, the tournament is seeking sponsors to donate anywhere from \$100 to \$1,000.

For information on Journey Home, or the golf tournament, call 716/227-8137.

Obituaries

Sister Immaculata Connelly, SSJ, at age 95

Sister Immaculata Connelly, a Sister of St. Joseph for 76 years, died June 22, 1997, at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, Pittsford. She was 95.

Sister Immaculata, an Elmira native, entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1921 out of St. Cecilia's Parish in Elmira. She was a graduate of Elmira Free Academy and earned her baccalaureate degree from Nazareth College, and master's degrees from St. Bonaventure University and the State University of New York College at Geneseo.

Sister Immaculata was well-known for her creative talents, especially in poetry. She taught for 49 years at elementary and high schools in the Diocese of Rochester. Her teaching stints included St. Francis de Sales School in Geneva (13 years); Immaculate Conception School in Rochester (six years); Geneva DeSales High School (seven years); and Nazareth Academy in Rochester (23 years). She retired from active teaching in 1973 and moved to the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary in 1991.

A funeral Mass for Sister Immaculata was celebrated June 24 at the St. Joseph motherhouse chapel. The principal celebrant was Msgr. William Shannon, with Msgr. Emmett Murphy and Fathers Donald Curtiss, D. Joseph Donovan and Bartholomew O'Brien assisting. Interment was at St. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Elmira.

Sister Immaculata is survived by a sister-in-law, Margaret Connelly; nieces and nephews; and her sisters in the Congregation of St. Joseph.

Sister Patricia Ann Marks, SSJ; was noted dietitian

Sister Patricia Ann Marks, SSJ, longtime director of the dietary department of Elmira's St. Joseph Hospital, died May 27, 1997, at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, Pittsford.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Sister Patricia Ann entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Holy Apostles Parish, Rochester, in 1938. She graduated from St. Joseph's College, Emmitsburg, Md., and Marywood College in Scranton, Pa.

She earned certification as a dietitian at St. Joseph's Hospital, Philadelphia, and prior to joining the Sisters of St. Joseph was head dietitian at Providence Hospital, Detroit, Mich. She was a certified member of the American Dietetic Association and the American Society of Hospital Food Service Administrators.

Sister Patricia Ann became head of the dietary department of St. Joseph's Hospi-

tal, Elmira, in 1940, and served in that capacity for the next 40 years. After retiring from the dietary department, she served in the hospital's pastoral care department until 1996. Due to failing health, she moved to the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary that year.

The funeral Mass for Sister Patricia Ann was celebrated May 31 at the Sisters of St.

Joseph Motherhouse Chapel. Interment was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Rochester.

Sister Patricia Ann is survived by her sister and brother-in-law, Katherine and Angus Buchan of Kensington, Md.; her sister-in-law, Virginia Marks of Silver Spring, Md.; nieces and nephews; and her sisters in the St. Joseph Congregation.

Computerized service helps travelers locate Masses

Finding a Catholic church when you're traveling has been made easier with the establishment of a 24-hour computerized information service.

The Archdiocese of Miami's "Mass Times Trust" will provide the location of any Catholic church in the continental

United States and Alaska.

The phone number for Mass Times Trust is 410/676-2231. The nonprofit service also provides churches' Mass times and days, church phone numbers and English and non-English Mass options in about 82 percent of the dioceses.

Thoughts to Consider



EDWIN SULEWSKI
Funeral Director

When a person dies at home what should you do?

You can call your funeral director for specific directions but here is a general procedure. First, contact your physician or medical team. If the death is unexpected you should notify the police who will in turn notify the coroner. This will also assure that medical help can be given should there be confusion as to whether the person is dead. If the death was expected notify your physician for verification of death. If you wish, contact your clergy and relatives or friends who are close to you. When all medical and legal matters are cared for contact the funeral director who will take your loved one to the funeral home and provide you with support and assistance for the next several days.

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