

DIOCESAN NEWS

Radio rosary program searches for new hosts

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

The Family Rosary for Peace is in need of some fresh voices.

After six years of hosting the half-hour program, the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester said they can no longer staff the show on a daily basis.

Sister Rosemary St. Peter, SSJ, congregation president, explained that the decreasing number of available sisters is forcing the congregation to drop the broadcasts.

"There are fewer and fewer who can do it," she said.

Sister St. Peter added that many sisters are involved in a number of ministries and that "everything has to stop in order for this to take place." She noted, for example, that the congregation has rearranged funeral times so the show could air in its 6:30 p.m. time slot.

Family Rosary for Peace airs live every evening from the congregation's convent infirmary in Pittsford. The show is carried on radio stations WSWG 1460-AM in Rochester and WXRL 1300-AM in Buffalo and Niagara Falls.

Sister St. Peter said the congregation is willing to continue its broadcasts for the time being, but hopes that a replacement can be found in the near future.

Father John Mulligan, diocesan vicar general, said that any group interested in taking over the broadcasts should send a letter of application by mid-August to him at the Diocese of Rochester, 1150 Buffalo

Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

The diocese oversees the program and its funding.

"What is needed is a group of people willing to take responsibility for leading the rosary every evening with, if possible, a group of people willing to attend the broadcast and accompany the leader in reciting the rosary," Father Mulligan stated in a letter to diocesan pastoral leaders.

"The broadcast equipment utilizes a telephone line to the transmission site and is so automated that, once transferred, would require little attention," he wrote. "The Family Rosary for Peace staff will continue to be responsible for organizing the annual fund campaign which finances the program as well as serving the business manager for the ministry."

The Family Rosary for Peace was begun in 1950 by Msgr. Joseph Cirrincione, a retired priest who resides at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Rochester. Msgr. Cirrincione had asked the Sisters of St. Joseph to assume responsibility of the broadcasts after a 1990 heart attack forced him to cease his on-air duties. Sister St. Peter noted that her community had only agreed to do the show for "a couple of years."

Father Mulligan told the *Catholic Courier* that the rise of religious programming on radio and television has caused the nightly rosary show's audience to diminish in recent years.

"We feel this particular ministry is no longer as unique, or filling a gap as significantly as before," Father Mulligan said.

However, he added, "We realize it means



Matthew Scott/Staff photographer

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Residents from Woodside Manor Nursing Home, Rochester, traveled with the help of the St. Anne's Rosary Group to venerate the Missionary Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Brighton, July 21. Lena DeBellis (sitting) touches the image in veneration with Kathy DeRooy (immediately behind) of the rosary group.

a lot, especially for shut-ins and those who live alone." For this reason, the vicar general said, "I'm looking for an appropriate group of people who could continue the current devotional approach since Monsignor (Cirrincione) founded it."

Sister St. Peter emphasized that the discontinuation of broadcasting duties shouldn't be perceived as a declining interest in rosary recitation by her congregation.

"Any time of the day you walk into the chapel, somebody's saying the rosary," Sister St. Peter pointed out. She said that she "is very grateful" to the sisters who have helped with the rosary broadcast.

"Sometimes it was tough with scheduling, but I've always found it very rewarding," added Sister Dorothy Meisenzahl, SSJ, who has led several Sunday-night broadcasts.

Hornell Knights of Columbus council marks a century of success

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

With 565 members, the Hornell Knights of Columbus Council 243 is one of the largest councils in upstate New York.

And, with a mix of young and old members, Mike Murray feels that the council's future looks strong as it begins its second century of existence.

"We have many young members. Our members go from (age) 18 into their 80s," said Murray, co-organizer of the council's 100th-anniversary celebration July 17-20.

Centennial festivities began with a rededication July 17 of a crucifix and other monuments at St. Ann's Cemetery, along with recitation of a living rosary. The Knights concluded their four-day celebration July 20 with a special Mass at St. Ann's Church and golf tournament at Twin Hickory Golf Course.

Also during the anniversary weekend, Council 243 was officially named after Father James Early, pastor of St. Ann's Church from 1879 to 1890. In addition, the council's Fourth Degree Color Guard was named after another former St. Ann's pastor, Msgr. Lawrence Gannon, who served from 1948 to 1961.

Most of Council 243's membership is derived from the Steuben County city's two Catholic parishes, St. Ann's and St. Ignatius Loyola. But parish differences are not important, two members said.

"It doesn't matter, as long as you make it to the meetings," said Lou Bellanca, a St. Ann's parishioner who has belonged to the council since 1948.

"It's the one case where there's no distinction made of what parish you're from," said Michael Colomaio, also from St. Ann's.

According to Murray, council members also come from surrounding towns and

villages including Canisteo, Almond, Alfred and Arkport.

Council 243 was founded July 18, 1897. Some families have continued their involvement with the Knights through several generations, Murray said.

"My great-grandfather was a charter member, and so was Marty Vogt's," Murray remarked. Both he and Vogt are parishioners at St. Ignatius Loyola.

The council moved to its current location, 251 Main St., in November 1971 following a 1970 fire that destroyed the Knights' previous facility. Murray noted that the Main Street hall is a former grocery store that was "totally remodeled" by the members.

The hall, Murray said, is a popular social spot equipped with a large meeting room, pool table and newly refurbished bar. The facility is open from 1 p.m. to 1 a.m., seven days a week.

"There's always something going on," Murray said. He added that the hall is also available to community groups for

their meetings.

Murray emphasized that the Knights' call to religious and community service remains their top priority. In 1994, for instance, Council 243 dedicated a monument to unborn children. The council also donates one-third of its bingo profits to charity, earmarking the two Hornell parishes and St. Ann's School as the top beneficiaries.

In addition, the Fourth Degree Color Guard participates in special church ceremonies and such civic events as parades and high-school football games.

"We make our presence very well-known," Murray commented.

Murray said that the reputation of the council helps keep membership at a high level, along with consistent recruitment efforts. For example, Murray frequently draws students from Alfred State College, where he serves as special events and catering coordinator.

"Once you get four or five guys to join, then it just snowballs," Murray said.

Women Needed for Hormone Therapy Research

As they search for the combinations of hormone replacement therapy that are both safe and effective, the Reproductive Endocrinology Unit and Menopause Center at the University of Rochester Medical Center seek women to participate in a study.

Volunteers must be healthy, post-menopausal women between the ages of 40 and 65. After a physical examination, women will be randomized to one of 8 treatment groups and receive various combinations of an FDA-approved estrogen and/or progesterin, or placebo.

During this one-year study, volunteers are seen every three months. Benefits to volunteers include free Pap smears and lab tests, free mammogram, and possible relief of menopausal symptoms based on the medication(s) they receive. Compensation of \$450 is available. Women who have had a hysterectomy are not eligible.

Women interested in participating can call Wanda Rivers at 275-7891.

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