

DIOCESAN NEWS

Parishioners answer prayers for more rosaries

By Kathleen Schwar
Staff writer

Ann Fogarty can't help but wonder sometimes who might be using the rosaries she's made that were sent to missions.

"It is an awesome thought that somewhere in the world someone has a rosary I made and is using it," said the parishioner of St. Dominic Church, Shortsville.

Fogarty has made 3,500 mission rosaries since 1993, with occasional help. But now she's hoping to multiply that number, to help meet a growing demand.

She and fellow St. Dominic's parishioner Jeni Mortier organized a Sept. 21 rosary-making session in the parish center.

The effort came in the wake of a request for more rosary-making volunteers in August by Father Robert deLeon, then national director of Family Rosary Inc., where Fogarty has been sending rosaries.

According to the Albany-based organization, it sent out 308,677 new and used rosaries this year, through August, in answer to requests. But it received only 132,921 new and used rosaries to send out.

Ann Halabuda, Family Rosary's office manager, said that since 1942 the organization's ministry has been to provide free rosaries — donated used and new rosaries — for various missions.

"Usually on a daily basis we receive rosaries in packages that vary from one in

an envelope to a full box of rosaries," she said. "There has always been a steady stream, but lately there have been days we haven't received any."

"The thought that has crossed my mind is we've collected every used rosary to be had out there," she said, explaining that new ones are purchased to meet the demand.

Although only 12-15 rosaries were completed at the St. Dominic's gathering, a rosary-making guild was begun, Fogarty said, and will meet monthly. It takes time to learn how to knot the nylon cord to hold the plastic beads and cross in place, she explained. With experience, however, a rosary takes about 15 minutes to make.

"I was really glad it worked out that well," Fogarty said, adding that a dozen people from third grade on up came out Sept. 21. "To us that's a real success, to



Greg Francis/Staff Photographer
Jeni Mortier, left, shows Earl May how to tie knots for rosary beads Sept. 21 at St. Dominic's Parish, Shortsville. The rosaries will be sent to the missions and Catholic schools.

have that many people there."

Fogarty, a professed secular Discalced Carmelite, also makes gift rosaries to sell. The revenue goes toward making her mission rosaries.

"Nobody ever told me to stop making them," she said. Yet, she added, "This is the first time we actually invited everybody to come and learn how to do it."

Demand for rosaries has increased dra-

matically especially in India and Africa, but also South America and Eastern Europe, according to Halabuda. Demand is up not only in foreign missions, but also in nursing homes, hospitals, prisons and schools, particularly for educational programs the organization started in the United States.

However, a major supplier of rosary-making materials, Our Lady's Rosary Makers in Louisville, Ken., is not as concerned about meeting that demand.

Deacon Harry Prestwood, president, said the company and its 70,000 customers who buy materials to make rosaries (including at least some supplying Family Rosary) sent a total of more than eight million rosaries around the world last year, including to Pope John Paul II and the Missionary Sisters of Charity and Mother Teresa; it sends supplies as well to the order in India.

"We laugh a lot around here that everybody in the world must have three rosaries," he said. "But we know it isn't true."

Prestwood acknowledged that demand for rosaries steadily increases. He expects his organization to send out 8.4 million rosaries this year.

"The rosary field is so in need of teaching tools," he said. "The rosary seems the best teaching tool they have."

If people learn to say the rosary, he said, "It's like a mini course in faith."

Author derides Catholic feminism, will speak at conference

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Feminists have no legitimate grievances with the Catholic Church and have done damage to the faithful by encouraging unnecessary dissent and rebellion, according to Donna Steichen, journalist and pro-life activist.

"I don't think anybody should call themselves 'feminist,'" said Steichen, author of the 1991 book *Ungodly Rage: The Hidden Face of Catholic Feminism*, during a Sept. 22 telephone interview from her Ojai, Calif., home. "I don't think what feminism is about is good for the common good."

An opponent of women's ordination, Steichen is slated to give a speech titled "Has Feminism Kept Its Promise to Catholic Women?" at the 1997 Western N.Y. Catholics United for the Faith Conference. CUF is a lay organization devoted to defending the traditional teachings of the church.

The CUF conference will begin with a dinner at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 26, at the Party House, 677 Beahan Road, Rochester. The dinner will feature a speech by author and journalist Father Kenneth Baker, SJ.

The conference will continue on Saturday, Sept. 27, with a 9 a.m. Mass at Holy Spirit Church, 1355 Hatch Road, Penfield. Speeches will follow from Steichen and Father Robert J. Levis, professor of theology at Gannon University in Erie, Pa.

In *Ungodly Rage*, Steichen pulled no punches when it came to her views on Catholic feminists. She described them as a vocal minority — whose organizations' memberships often overlapped — and who "don't like women, and ... don't want to be women."

The book blames feminism, in part, for declining religious vocations among

women who lost their desire to serve Christ when they were led into a rebellion against the church's "patriarchy."

She added that feminists' "ultimate rebellion, against God the Father and his son, the male Savior Jesus Christ, has been disguised for public consumption as a campaign for 'inclusive' liturgical language."

Steichen's book also detailed the attempts to create a feminist-friendly Catholicism that was undertaken by such figures as Sister Maureen Fiedler, SL, who coordinated this year's "We Are Church Referendum." "We Are Church" was a nationally circulated petition calling for such church reforms as ordination of women and married men and the right for people to follow their consciences on such matters as birth control.

Steichen's book lists Sister Fiedler among the signatories of a 1984 advertisement paid for by the pro-choice group Catholics For A Free Choice that ran in the

New York Times and that called for dialogue on church teaching against abortion. Steichen also noted that Sister Fiedler worked with Women-Church Convergence, a coalition of groups that included pro-choice organizations.

In her interview with the *Courier*, Steichen said that some Catholic feminists she investigated want to replace worship of Christ with neo-pagan worship of various ancient goddesses. Such a movement, she claimed, was based on their desire to imagine God as they, and not Christ, wanted. She added that although the Bible sometimes uses feminine similes to describe God, God chose to reveal himself in male terms.

"When (Scripture) speaks about God as a father, it's 'God the father,' not 'God is like a father,'" she said.

In defining feminism, Steichen distinguished between "equity feminists" who, she said, seek equality with men and are

pro-life, and "gender feminists," who are anti-men and pro-choice. Steichen said she favors equity feminism over gender feminism, but, if given a third choice, would discard the whole cause of feminism.

"What I say is that women have a right to be women," she said, noting her belief that most women are called to bear, nurture and teach children. "I see tremendous suffering in society in that women, in order to be equal, they have to be like men ... What's really wrong here is there's not enough respect for what women do."

Steichen supports the right of women to have their own careers, but she called for companies to pay fathers a "family wage" that would enable mothers who choose so to stay home and tend to their children.

"Raising children takes all your time and talent," she said. "If everybody is in the labor force, then nobody raises their children."

Correction

A memorial service for Dr. Alice Jones will take place Monday, Sept. 29, at 4:30 p.m. in the Vasile Alma Mater Chapel at Nazareth College's Otto Shults Community Center.

Information provided to the *Catholic Courier* and published in the Sept. 11 issue was incorrect.



PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- All medications
- 24-hr. nursing service
- Full medical care & health maintenance
- Two delicious meals
- Modern apartments
- Housekeeping service
- Cable TV
- Social & recreational activities

THE HERITAGE

More than the comforts of home.

At The Heritage, you'll enjoy living in a friendly, caring community of physicians, nurses, and friends. Plus a range of services, like our pharmacy, hair salon, country store, chapel with interfaith services, and recreation all under one roof! The Heritage offers many more comforts along with the freedom to plan your own days. So call (716) 342-1700 today for a tour and consultation. We'll be happy to explain how we can accommodate your schedule, financial situation, and the services you desire.

\$88
A DAY



1450 PORTLAND AVENUE, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14621
(716) 342-1700 ext. 276 Eileen Ryan-Maruke
Web Home Page • <http://www.stannsrochester.org>