

Award honors three who 'share light'

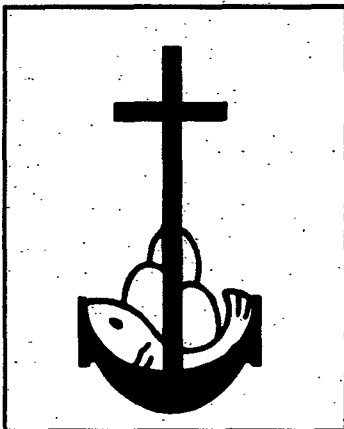
Two Auburn-area Catholics — Father Paul Brennan, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Auburn, and St. Ann's Church, Owasco, and Mary Ann Piscioti of St. Mary's Church, received this year's Sharing the Light Award of Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes.

The fourth annual awards were presented June 9 at the Highland Park Golf Club in Auburn.

Cayuga County District Atty. James B. Vargason, a member of Auburn's First Presbyterian Church, also received the award.

The awards recognized the three honorees' community service and efforts "to reflect and share God's healing Light with those in need of love, kindness, hope and understanding," according to Catholic Charities officials.

Father Brennan has shared that light in his parish work as well as all the communities where he has lived, according to a press release. He has been a counselor at Samaritan Counseling Center, Rochester; a local leader of the grape boycott in the



'60s, and an organizer of community efforts to expose unfair educational systems in the poor neighborhoods of Rochester. He also was president of the non-profit I.C. Housing Development Company and was instrumental in building and managing 154 units for low-moderate income families.

For 20 of his 38 years of ministry, he worked predominantly with African-American parishioners, "striving to make the black religious experience an integral part of weekly worship," according to Catholic Charities. He also "has consistently advocated for those most vulnerable and marginalized and for civil rights for minority groups."

Ordained in 1959 in Auburn's Holy Family Parish, Father Brennan has served St. Michael's, Penn Yan; St. Andrew's, Dundee; St. John the Evangelist, Spencerport; and Immaculate Conception, Rochester.

Piscioti, a lifelong resident of Auburn,

is a mother of seven, grandmother of 18 and great-grandmother of two who has been part of the business community and a leader in service, the organization stated.

Several other organizations have recognized Piscioti, including the Sons of Italy, the VA Hospital in Bath, and Freedom Recreational Services, which serves children with disabilities.

She has "shared her light" with such groups as the Girl Scouts, Red Cross, March of Dimes, United Way, American Heart Association, Cayuga Board of the American Diabetes Association and Elks Auxiliary. She is currently serving her second six-year term as president of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Auburn and Cayuga County.

Vargason has been chairman of the Auburn City Ethics Board and executive director of the Cayuga County Victim/Witness Services Program. He also is a member of the executive committee of the New York State District Attorney's Association, is chairman of the Cayuga County Alternatives to Incarceration Advisory Board and a member of the Domestic Violence Enders as well as other programs.

Diocese will formalize faith development split

The diocese has announced it will split the Faith Development Ministry into two positions, one for Evangelization and Catechesis, the other for Catholic Schools, Superintendent of Catholic Schools.

Effective July 1, the two directors, respectively, will be Maribeth Mancini and Tom Dwyer, who have shared the responsibilities of the director's post since Sister Mary Ann Binack's resignation a year ago. Mancini is director of the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis, and Dwyer, superintendent of schools.

"While the guidance, support and leadership of Sister Mary Ann Binack as Director of Faith Development Ministry was missed," a diocesan release stated, "the interim arrangement has been manageable and effective."

"Maribeth and I are committed to working together for lifelong faith formation," Dwyer commented. "Nothing has changed. My focus is still the schools... I'd say it's an affirmation I am happy with."

Obituary

Arthur Hctor, nun's, priest's brother, at 61

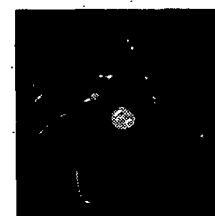
Arthur E. Hctor, brother of Sister Marion Hctor, SSJ, and Father Thomas Hctor, died March 31, 1998, in McKinney, Texas, following a long battle with cancer. He was 61.

Born in Rochester, Mr. Hctor attended Corpus Christi School and Edison Technical High School. He served in the U.S. Navy, then worked for many years as an electrical engineer and a technical writer. He moved to McKinney in 1981, and was diagnosed with blood cancer in 1986.

In addition to his sister and brother, both of Rochester, Mr. Hctor is survived by his wife, Barbara, sons Thomas and Arthur E. Hctor Jr., both of McKinney, daughters Debra Burns of Mt. Morris, N.Y., Dawn Kern of Leicester, N.Y., and Kathleen Hctor of Dallas, and seven grandchildren.

The family requests that donations in his memory be sent to the American Cancer Society.

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