

Fr. Tomasso to direct rosary program

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Msgr. Joseph Cirrincione has handed over his longtime directorship of the Family Rosary for Peace radio program to Father Paul J. Tomasso, effective Sept. 1.

Msgr. Cirrincione is retired and resides at St. Francis of Assisi Church rectory. Father Tomasso is pastor of St. Francis as well as St. Anthony of Padua, Ss. Peter and Paul and Holy Apostles churches.

The monsignor, 88, announced his resignation in the October Family Rosary for Peace newsletter, which also highlighted the program's annual appeal for donations. Father Tomasso said the monsignor decided to hand over the reins to him because after 48 years he thought it was time to turn the program over to someone else.

Msgr. Cirrincione said he was initially inspired to promote his rosary program after visiting Fatima, Portugal, in the late 1940s, where he met Sister Maria Dolores, better known as Lucia, one of three children who reportedly saw the Blessed Mother in a series of visions in 1917. Sister Maria encouraged the priest to promote daily recitation of the rosary, he recalled.

"That's the raison d'etre of my life — to get the rosary said every day," he said.

The monsignor began broadcasting the program in Rochester over WSAY in 1950. He ceased his live broadcast efforts after suffering a heart attack in 1990.

From 1990 to the summer of 1997, the program was broadcast from the St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary in Pittsford. But the Sisters of St. Joseph discontinued hosting the broadcasts because of the declining numbers of nuns available to provide them. Since then, the program has consisted of taped broadcasts made by Msgr. Cirrincione that also feature the voices of the program's friends and supporters.



File photo

Msgr. Joseph Cirrincione

In a separate October letter promoting the program's annual appeal for funds, Bishop Matthew H. Clark praised the priest's stewardship of the rosary show, which currently airs daily at 6:30 p.m. on WWVG 1460 AM in Rochester, and on WXRL 1300 AM in Buffalo/Niagara Falls.

"I want to thank Msgr. Joseph Cirrincione for his inspiring commitment to the Rosary for Peace," Bishop Clark wrote. "Over the years he met many financial, technological and organizational challenges which he met with characteristic confidence in our Blessed Mother. And now the daily rosary has become a living tradition in this region."

The bishop's sentiments were shared by

Mary DiLullo, a longtime supporter of the Family Rosary For Peace.

"I think a great deal of Father Joe," she said of the monsignor. "He's such a dedicated man to the Blessed Mother."

Father Tomasso said Msgr. Cirrincione has taped all 15 mysteries of the rosary, and that the tapes are currently being rotated on the air. In his October appeal letter, the monsignor said the tapes are available to the general public at \$15 per three-tape set.

"People can play them in their car, their home, anywhere they want," the monsignor said.

Buyers may send their orders to: The Family Rosary For Peace, P.O. Box 11007, Rochester, N.Y. 14611. Father Tomasso said people interested in donating to the program may also send their donations to that address. Checks should be made out to: The Family Rosary For Peace.

Father Tomasso said the program costs about \$2,200 a month to keep on the air. Although the programs has occasionally encountered financial difficulties, its supporters have been steadfast, he said.

"People are very good, very generous and very devout," Father Tomasso said.

Father Tomasso said the program has remained popular because it appeals to many Catholics who desire daily prayer.

"I think that not only is the rosary a traditional devotion in the church, it's a valuable devotion," the priest said. "The rosary is very appealing, satisfying and rewarding to many, many people. It's just a wonderful reminder of the mysteries of our faith."

He added that radio broadcasts of rosary recitation allow people a chance to strengthen their Christian faith — and gives them a break in their busy days.

DiLullo echoed Father Tomasso.

"It's only a half-hour," she said. "Why not give a half-hour to the Blessed Virgin Mary?"

Obituary

Sr. Kaseman

Sister Mary Agnes Kaseman, SSJ, a longtime teacher, died at the Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary on Oct. 10, 1998. She was 86.

Sister Mary Agnes entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from Blessed Sacrament Church in 1930. A graduate of Nazareth Academy and Nazareth College, Sister Mary Agnes taught in the Diocese of Rochester's schools for 46 years. Among the schools she taught at were St. Ambrose, Holy Apostles, St. Lucy's, Nazareth Hall and Christ the King, all in Rochester; Ss. Peter and Paul, Elmira; St. Agnes, Avon; St. Mary's, Auburn; and St. James, Waverly.

For 20 years after leaving teaching, she lived at Nazareth Academy Convent, where she served the sisters by driving them to appointments and visiting the sick.

A statement from her order said, "Sister Mary Agnes was a happy, cheerful person, loved by her students and all who came in contact with her."

Sister Mary Agnes is survived by one brother, Robert of Rochester, one sister, Diane Kaseman of Alexandria, Va., nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, and her fellow Sisters of St. Joseph.

A funeral Mass was celebrated in her order's motherhouse chapel on Oct. 13. Interment took place at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Contributions may be made in Sister Mary Agnes Kaseman's name to: Sisters of St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, 4199 East Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14618.

Diocese hires new gifts director

By Lee Strong
Associate editor

Linda Zuber, the Diocese of Rochester's new director of major and planned giving, had only been on the job a few days, but she already knew what she wants to do.

"I like to think my job will be about building relationships between people and the diocese," explained Zuber in a Nov. 5 interview — just three days after she began her new job. "People give to people. They don't give to institutions."

She will be encouraging people to give support above and beyond what they contribute to the Thanks Giving Appeal, which funds the immediate day-to-day operating expenses of the diocese.

"Major gifts are gifts that take a little more planning, a little more thought," Zuber said.

Thus she will be seeking long-term donations, through such means as cash, securities, property, bequest and life payment plans.

Zuber comes to the diocese with a track record of encouraging people to provide such support.

She is a 20-year veteran of fundraising and alumni relations at the University of



Rochester, its medical center and the University of Chicago. Most recently, she had been serving as the staff support for the medical center's \$35 million Campaign for Discovery.

Despite the fact that that campaign was progressing well, Zuber, a parishioner of Rochester's St. Mary's Church, jumped at the chance to work for the diocese.

"I got to the point in my own life where I wanted to actually work in a somewhat smaller, more nurturing place," she said. "I think there's something very spiritual (about the pastoral center), and I think we're here because we love the mission."

Zuber grew up in St. Rita's Parish, Webster. She is currently a member of the stewardship committee at St. Mary's.

Zuber will be continuing the work of Mary Conslor, who left the diocese to work for WXXI this summer. Zuber said Conslor left a "very solid foundation, a very good place to start" and "a wonderful network of planned giving advisors."

Her hope, she added, is "to personalize things, to build on the current relationships that are there."

Parishes plan Blessed Grimoaldo services

Two Rochester churches will host celebrations in honor of Blessed Grimoaldo Santamaria, some of whose relatives live in the Rochester area.

Holy Cross Church, 4492 Lake Ave., Rochester, will hold a triduum — three days of prayer — Nov. 16-18, beginning each day at 5:20 p.m.

Church of the Annunciation, 1654 Norton St., Rochester, will mark his feast day, Nov. 18, with an 8:15 a.m. Mass.

The guest speaker at both churches will be Passionist Father Dominic Papa, the American promoter of Blessed Grimoal-

do's cause.

A native of Pontecorvo, Italy, Blessed Grimoaldo entered the Passionist order in 1899 at age 16. He pronounced first vows in 1900, then died suddenly in 1902, with a reputation for holiness. His cause for canonization was initiated in 1957. On Jan. 29, 1995, Pope John Paul II declared him "blessed."

After his death, his mother, Cecilia Ruscio Santamaria, and his niece, Jenny Santamaria Panella, moved to Rochester. Two of his nieces and a number of his relatives still live in the Rochester area.

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