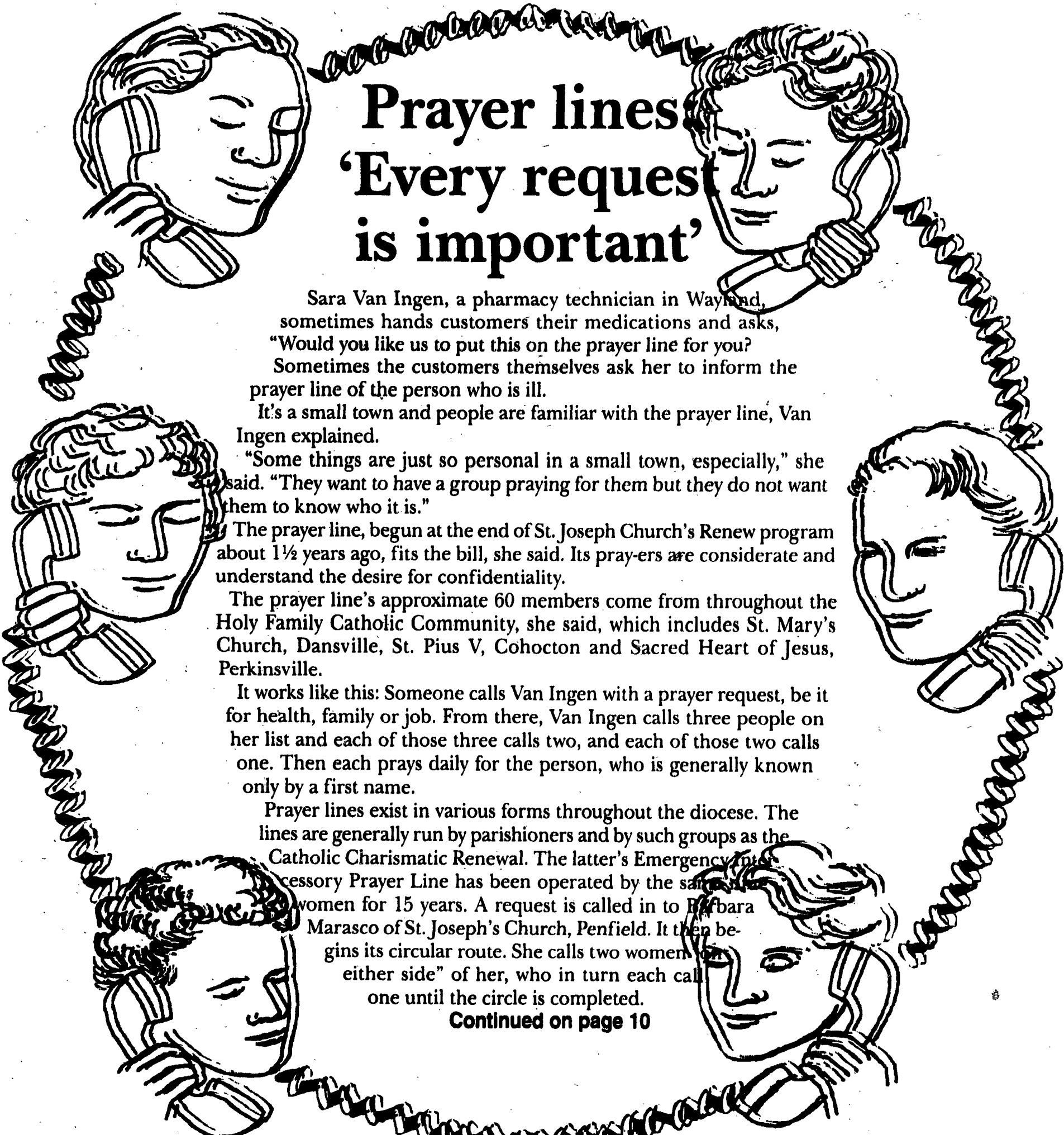


Happy Easter

Catholic Courier



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Prayer lines 'Every request is important'

Sara Van Ingen, a pharmacy technician in Wayland, sometimes hands customers their medications and asks, "Would you like us to put this on the prayer line for you? Sometimes the customers themselves ask her to inform the prayer line of the person who is ill.

It's a small town and people are familiar with the prayer line, Van Ingen explained.

"Some things are just so personal in a small town, especially," she said. "They want to have a group praying for them but they do not want them to know who it is."

The prayer line, begun at the end of St. Joseph Church's Renew program about 1½ years ago, fits the bill, she said. Its prayers are considerate and understand the desire for confidentiality.

The prayer line's approximate 60 members come from throughout the Holy Family Catholic Community, she said, which includes St. Mary's Church, Dansville, St. Pius V, Cohocton and Sacred Heart of Jesus, Perkinsville.

It works like this: Someone calls Van Ingen with a prayer request, be it for health, family or job. From there, Van Ingen calls three people on her list and each of those three calls two, and each of those two calls one. Then each prays daily for the person, who is generally known only by a first name.

Prayer lines exist in various forms throughout the diocese. The lines are generally run by parishioners and by such groups as the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. The latter's Emergency Inter-

cessory Prayer Line has been operated by the same women for 15 years. A request is called in to Barbara Marasco of St. Joseph's Church, Penfield. It then begins its circular route. She calls two women "on either side" of her, who in turn each call one until the circle is completed.

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