

DIOCESAN NEWS



Parish observes 75th milestone

St. Theodore Church parishioners celebrated the church's 75th anniversary July 20 outside the Gates parish with ice cream and a look at parish history. Left: Don Heifron looks over old parish and school photographs. Below: Palo Saleva, left, and his brother Giuseppe prepare ice cream sundaes after Mass.



Mike Mergen/Photo Intern

School buys building to increase classrooms

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

GATES — Hope Hall, an alternative nondenominational school for students with learning difficulties, has purchased the building in which it has been housed since its founding in 1994.

Sister Diana Dolce, SSJ, the school's principal, said volunteers this summer will renovate Hope Hall, 1612 Buffalo Road, to prepare it for fall classes.

Sister Dolce said needed renovations and repairs include new windows for the entire building; new lights; repair of the boiler and thermostats; plumbing; and roofing work.

Hope Hall purchased the building June 8 for \$1.2 million from Rochester Christian Church Ministries, a full-Gospel Pentecostal church, which had owned the structure since 1980. The 55,000 square-foot building sits on four acres with a fenced-in playground.

Over the years, the building also had housed a public school, a private Christian academy and Archangel School, an independent school run by lay Catholics.

Hope Hall has rented the building's west wing since 1994, and Archangel had

been renting the east wing since 1992. Archangel School left the Buffalo Road building June 30, and was looking for a new building. Archangel has 50 students in grades kindergarten to eight.

Currently, Hope Hall has 110 students in grades two to nine. Sister Dolce said Hope Hall is currently overcrowded in its wing, and had considered moving at the end of the 1998-99 school year. But she said she found no other buildings to be as attractive.

The principal added that her school draws children from 19 Monroe County school districts, as well as three communities outside the county. This was a prime reason to keep Hope Hall as centrally located as possible.

"If we moved two miles in any direction, we would have lost busing from those districts," she said. "Everything pointed to this being where God wants us."

Sister Dolce said the B. Thomas Colisano Foundation guaranteed Hope Hall's five-year mortgage when it purchased the building. She also said that the school plans to begin a \$2 million capital campaign this fall to pay off the mortgage, as well as to finance repairs and ren-

ovations.

By expanding into the west wing, the school will have five new classrooms in addition to its current 11, she said. She added that this will enable her to move the ninth-grade classroom out of the west wing's basement. The school plans to build a computer center as well, she said.

Hope Hall currently employs 12 full-time teachers, three part-time teachers, a part-time nurse, two secretaries and a counselor. In 1997, the New York State Board of Regents granted the school a charter that made it a member of the University of the State of New York, which encompasses about 20,000 public and nonpublic schools, as well as many museums and libraries.

The university is not to be confused with the State University of New York, a collection of higher education institutions commonly known as the SUNY system.

In granting a charter, the state not only accredits the school, it also endorses its educational philosophy. Hope Hall uses a copyrighted method of teaching designed to equip its students to succeed in a traditional school environment when they leave Hope Hall, Sister Dolce said.

Recognizing

★ **Marisa Zamot**, who graduated from Our Lady of Mercy High School in June, won the Monroe County Youth Bureau's 1999 Young Citizen of the Year Award. Zamot, who will attend RIT in the fall, was recognized for her participation and leadership in Greater Rochester's Promise.

★ **Emily Facci** of Our Lady of Mercy High School won second place in the short fiction category of the 1999 Sokol High School Literary Award sponsored by the Friends of the Rochester Public Library. Her entry was titled "Shades of Grey."

★ **Lyndsey Bunting**, who is entering the ninth grade at Our Lady of Mercy High School, has been selected to participate in the "Not Me...Not Now" campaign to reduce teen pregnancy. She will appear in a video that will be available in doctors' offices and public libraries.

★ **Kristine Pierce**, a Mendon native who graduated in May from RIT, where she participated in the Catholic campus parish, was awarded the 1999 Hockey Humanitarian Award. It is presented by the Hockey Humanitarian Award Foundation to the college hockey player who "best exemplifies the qualities of character, sportsmanship, and devotion to the game and to the community." Pierce has volunteered for such projects as St. Martin's and St. Joseph's soup kitchens.

★ **Teens in Community**, a youth group from St. Anne's, Palmyra, and St. Gregory's, Marion, staged a "baby bottle" fundraiser during Lent, netting \$1,619.40. The money was split evenly between Faith Haven, a Christian maternity home near Naples, and the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Palmyra.

★ **The Catholic Family Center** named **Pat Fowler** and **Harry Murray** volunteers of the year, **Fleet Bank** corporation of the year and **Memorial A.M.E. Zion Church** faith community of the year, and awarded the **Margaret O'Leary Memorial Scholarship** to **Hung Huynh** during its annual meeting June 23. The awards recognized "individuals and corporations who have made a significant and positive impact on the greater Rochester community."

Obituary

Francis Pilecki, former organist

Francis J. Pilecki, a former organist at Sacred Heart Cathedral, and a member of the first graduating class from St. John Fisher College, died May 21, 1999, in Wayne Memorial Hospital in Honesdale, Pa., due to kidney failure. He was 64.

A Rochester native, Mr. Pilecki began playing organ at St. Andrew's Church at age 12. At St. John Fisher College, he organized the first glee club. He played organ at the cathedral while pursuing graduate studies at the University of Rochester and teaching at Aquinas Institute.

He pursued a career in college teaching and administration in Pennsylvania and Massachusetts, and then from 1988 to 1997 was executive director for Leo House, a Catholic hotel in New York City.

Mr. Pilecki returned to Rochester from September 1998 to April 1999 to stay with his sister, Joan Limpert, parish secretary at St. Andrew's. During that time, he played organ at St. Philip Neri Church, Rochester.

In addition to his sister, Mr. Pilecki is survived by three sons, Francis J. Pilecki Jr., and Henry and Joseph Connors, and three daughters, Jane Pilecki, Mary Pilecki and Rita L. Tournas, all of Massachusetts; a brother Gerard Pilecki of Rochester; and former wife, Julianna Mueller, of Blandford, Ma.

Donations in Mr. Pilecki's memory may be made to St. Andrew's Church, 923 Portland Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14621, or St. John Fisher College, 3690 East Ave., Rochester N.Y. 14618.

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