

DIOCESAN NEWS

Van donation aids Finger Lakes farm workers

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

For three years, Xochitl Palacios had been using her own minivan to transport Hispanic farmworkers to a weekly Spanish Mass in Geneva.

However, the demand exceeded the available space. Though Palacios would sometimes make three round-trips in the Finger Lakes area, her seven-passenger vehicle could not accommodate all who wanted to attend the liturgy at St. Francis de Sales Church.

"Sometimes there were people who were disappointed," said Palacios, who serves as coordinator of an eight-church Hispanic ministry that operates out of St. Francis de Sales.

Such difficulties have diminished greatly, thanks to a donation from St. Ann's Community in Rochester, a nursing and retirement home facility. In early September, St. Ann's donated a 15-passenger van to the Geneva parish.

The van made its official debut in the Finger Lakes Sept. 19, when Palacios transported a Hispanic contingent to a Mass and Mexican festival in Sodus. Since Sept. 26, Palacios said, the van has been used for the weekly 1:30 p.m. Spanish Mass at St. Francis de Sales, as well as occasional day trips.

Palacios said that she transports Hispanics to Mass in Geneva from as far away as Prattsburg, which is an hour's drive.

She added that the van will benefit farmworkers year-round. Several Hispanic workers stay in the Finger Lakes beyond the typical May-November work months.

The van is also slated for use by a senior citizen program that operates out of St. Stephen's Church, the other Catholic parish in the Roman Catholic Community of Geneva. The van is handicapped-accessible.

"This is going to bring a lot of joy to people," Palacios said.

At this point, Palacios said, she and two volunteers are handling all the driving duties.

Kathleen Cannon, diocesan Director of Parish Support Ministries, said she first learned the van was available



Bill Hawken

A woman who gave her name only as Maribell tends to her son Derek during a trip Sunday, Oct 3, in the Finger Lakes region.

when Father Peter Bayer, chaplain of St. Ann's, contacted her earlier this year.

The 1985 Ford van, which had been driven approximately 65,000 miles, had been used primarily to transport St. Ann's residents for shopping and social outings. St. Ann's has acquired a new vehicle for such purposes.



Bill Hawken

Jim Cramer is one of two volunteers who handle the driving duties of the new Hispanic ministry van.

Cannon and Palacios noted that the Hispanic ministry is a good fit because many of the farmworkers don't have their own vehicles, and live in isolated areas outside of Geneva that aren't located on public transportation routes.

After its initial offer to donate the van, St. Ann's Community also covered repairs made before the van was presented to the ministry.

"Recognizing the limited resources of an organization, that might have been the determining factor," said Betty Mullin, president and CEO of St. Ann's Community.

The van donation, Mullin said, reflects how such diverse agencies as a health-care organization and a Hispanic rural outreach can connect.

"One of the things we like to do is really contribute to the community at large," Mullin said.

In addition to St. Francis de Sales and St. Stephen's, other parishes that regularly support the Hispanic outreach include St. Michael's, Penn Yan; St. Andrew's, Dundee; St. Theresa's, Stanley; St. Mary's, Rushville; St. Januarius, Naples; and St. Patrick's, Prattsburg.

Migrant laborers come to the area primarily from Puerto Rico, Mexico, Central America and Haiti.

Thanks Giving Appeal campaign sets goal of \$5.2 million

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Despite a shortfall of more than \$300,000 from last year, organizers of the 1999-2000 Thanks Giving Appeal are optimistic that the appeal will realize its goal of \$5.2 million.

The new TGA campaign kicked off Oct. 5. According to Jennifer Myszka, diocesan director of annual giving, 120,000 pledge forms were sent that day to registered parishioners in the diocese. TGA representatives are speaking in parishes over the next several weeks.

Last year's TGA campaign goal was \$5.15 million. Myszka reported that \$5 million was pledged and \$4.83 million was collected.

Myszka said that 53,542 donors, or 44 percent of all registered Catholic households, contributed in 1998-99. This represents a decline of 1,040 donors from 1997-98.

Myszka listed "competing priorities, the economy and competition with other charities" as possible contributing factors for the shortfall.

"Without question, there is greater competition for the donated dollar based on real needs in the community," added



Barbara Kelley, vice president of corporate communications for Bausch and Lomb Inc. Kelley is serving as 1999-2000 TGA co-chair along with Father James Schwartz, pastor at St. Louis Church in Pittsford.

The two suggested that controversy surrounding Rochester's Corpus Christi Church also resulted in a loss of donors.

In the summer of 1998 Bishop Matthew H. Clark removed Father James B. Callan as the parish's administrator for violations of church teaching concerning ministry to homosexuals, intercommunion and women in the church.

Father Callan and his followers later began their own church, Spiritus Christi.

"There was a lot of polarization over that issue and at the least, it was a distraction," remarked Kelley, a parishioner at St. Mary's Church in Rochester. Yet she praised the 1998-1999 TGA campaign for nearing its goal.

"There was Corpus Christi and the gay issue before that. I suppose that had an effect on the overall input," Father Schwartz said. Bishop Clark's Mass for gay and lesbian Catholics and their families in March 1997 was not universally perceived as a favorable step.

In April, as the 1998-99 TGA campaign was nearing its close, 15 Pastoral Office staff positions were eliminated. Father Joseph Hart, diocesan moderator, said at the time that a "flat" response to the TGA had influenced the decision to cut jobs.

However, Father Schwartz predicted a resurgence during the new TGA campaign, which runs through June 30, 2000.

"I think we have moved beyond the controversy," Father Schwartz said.

This year, for the first time, TGA pledge forms were mailed from the Pastoral Office. Myszka explained that past TGA campaigns were conducted largely "in-hall," with parish volunteers handling envelope distribution. Only 17 parishes

are still doing in-hall distribution.

With the mailings now handled through the diocese, Myszka said that parish-level volunteers can spend more time on follow-up calls rather than stuffing envelopes.

The 1999-2000 campaign began two weeks earlier than last year's. Myszka said this will allow potential donors more time to respond before second envelopes are mailed from the Pastoral Office Nov. 30.

The Thanks Giving Appeal has raised more than \$65 million since its inception in 1981. TGA donations represent 52 percent of the budget for diocesanwide ministries, services and programs.

In promotional literature, TGA officials highlight many recent initiatives that TGA dollars have helped fund. Among them are youth retreats, conventions and leadership training programs; computer technology linking the Pastoral Office and parishes; and evangelization programs for fallen-away Catholics.

Obituary

Sister Francis Gerard Smalt, SSJ, 81, taught for 39 years

Sister Francis Gerard Smalt, SSJ, who taught in elementary schools in the Diocese of Rochester for 39 years, died at Rochester General Hospital Sept. 6, 1999. She was 81.

A Rochester native, Sister Francis Gerard entered the Sisters of St. Joseph from St. Augustine Parish in 1936. She earned bachelor degrees in education and history from Nazareth College, and a master's in library science from the State University College at Geneseo.

Among the schools where Sister Gerard taught were Holy Apostles, Immaculate

Conception, Corpus Christi, and Sacred Heart, all of Rochester; St. Patrick, Seneca Falls; St. Francis de Sales, Geneva; Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brockport; St. Mary, Auburn; and St. John the Evangelist and Mother of Sorrows, both of Greece.

Father Gerald Appelby celebrated her funeral liturgy Sept. 9 at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel.

Survivors include two sisters: Sister Marie Augustine, SSJ, and Lucille Blum of Rochester; nieces and nephews; and her sisters in the Congregation of St. Joseph.

LAMP LIGHTER

Lunch Specials

MARYLAND CRAB CAKES Served with a zesty Romolade sauce	\$7.95
PASTA PURSES Filled with wild mushrooms, served with a tomato Basil sauce	\$6.95
FRENCH ONION STEAK SANDWICH Grilled Rib eye, caramelized onions, melted mozzarella over crusted French bread	\$8.95
SOUP & SANDWICH Our chef selects a new combination daily	\$5.95

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Tuesday - Friday

All Lunch Specials served with a choice of soup or salad

PARTIES & BANQUETS

We have private accommodations for up to 50 people. Excellent for Christmas, birthdays, retirements, corporate functions, anniversaries, and rehearsal dinners, etc. Choose from sit down dinners, buffets or hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. -Menus Upon Request-

Dinner Specials

HAZELNUT CRUSTED DUCKLING Served with French green beans, sweet potato smashers, and a sun dried cherry sauce	\$17.95
RACK OF LAMB Marinated in Balsamic, crusted with Dijon and complimented with Bordeauxlrais sauce	\$19.95
PORTOFINO Lobster, shrimp, scallops and crab meat sautéed in olive oil and white wine, served with artichoke hearts & black olives over pasta	\$18.95

SERVING DINNER
Monday - Saturday

Creekside Plaza
831 Fetzner Rd.
Corner Maiden Lane
225-2500