

DIOCESAN NEWS

Diocese asks parish CYO teams to cut games

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

As a new Catholic Youth Organization basketball season gets underway, CYO teams in Monroe County face the prospect of fewer games on their schedule.

Father Joseph Hart, diocesan vicar general, sought to clarify CYO procedures in a memo sent Oct. 20 to pastors, Catholic school principals and CYO officials in Monroe County. The guidelines were accompanied by revised permission slips, health forms, accident reports and volunteer driver forms.

Among the more notable requests contained in the memo was a plea to limit the number of games to CYO's official 10-game league schedule — Nov. 20 to Feb. 6 — plus the countywide and Bishop's tournaments in February and March.

Father Hart also stated that CYO teams should take part in no more than one non-CYO sponsored tournament per season. Tournaments above and beyond the official schedule are considered parish or school events and should be advertised as

such, even if the only participants are CYO teams. This shifts insurance liability from CYO to the parish or school.

Catholic Youth Organization basketball in Monroe County is operated as a program of Catholic Family Center.

Father Hart said scheduling had become a concern because some CYO teams played numerous games beyond the normal CYO schedule last season.

"When there's an 11-game season and kids are playing 60 to 70 games, there is something out of proportion," Father Hart said. "It takes it out of the 'fun' realm."

He added that heavy CYO schedules threaten family and worship time on weekends, and tie up parish gyms as well.

"It's only one part of the (parishes') overall youth program. You can't have pick-up games or volleyball games because the gym is taken," Father Hart remarked.

Father Hart said that his announcement emerged as a result of meetings between diocesan and CYO officials. He emphasized that the recommendation about scheduling cutbacks is not set in cement, and that he will offer listening sessions

with parish representatives over the next several months.

Rita Augustine of Catholic Family Center said Father Hart's memo does not signify a change in CYO guidelines.

"It's the same basic schedule, with the same expectations," said Augustine, CFC's vice-president for program services.

However, Augustine said CYO has no control over games that parish teams play independently of the CYO schedule.

"I can't dictate, nor would we ever want to dictate, to families about what kids do with discretionary time. What I can be clear about is what we recommend," she said. "There is now a hope that parishes will be more conscientious."

Carl Masters, athletic director at Holy Cross Church in Rochester, does not concur with Father Hart's desire to limit the number of games scheduled by his parish-based teams.

"This is my 17th year of doing this, and we've never had a complaint from a parent or player about playing in too many tournaments. For some of the kids this is all they have, and it's a long winter," said Mas-

ters, whose CYO program includes eight basketball teams in grades fifth through high school and three cheerleading squads.

John Owens, the CYO varsity boys' coach at Holy Cross, said his team played 21 games last year — a reasonable number, he feels, for a four-month season.

Owens and Masters said that 20 to 30 games is the norm for parish-based teams, whereas only a handful of CYO teams play the 60- to 70-game season Father Hart cited.

Richie Held and Ryan Cosner, members of the Holy Cross CYO varsity boys team, noted that their CYO commitment is comparatively lighter than that of a scholastic program. For instance, they said they practice two days per week, whereas scholastic teams practice nearly every day.

In order to comply with the guidelines, Owens said he is considering canceling Holy Cross' annual Monsignor Burns Tournament.

However, he said he hopes to discuss the matter with diocesan officials and still hold the event.

Gates woman organizes Tuesday-night rosary, Italian style

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

GATES — The way that cars line the curb along Bru Mar Drive, passers-by might wonder what kind of bash takes place at the Falletti's each Tuesday night.

It's a spiritual party, so to speak. The Falletti's host as many as 40 adults, who fill the kitchen and dining room for a special kind of rosary — one recited in Italian.

Anna Falletti greets all visitors at the door, and the air quickly fills with hugs, kisses and rapidly spoken Italian.

But at 7 p.m. sharp, things quiet down quickly. Falletti lights candles near an array of religious statues and paintings, and begins to lead the gathering in prayer. All songs and prayers are recited in Italian.

Slightly more than an hour later, the prayer session ends. Some participants head for the doorway; others stick around for dessert, coffee and conversation.

Falletti said she began weekly recitation of the rosary three years ago after she was diagnosed with colon cancer.

"I promised God that if I was going to be OK, I was going to say the rosary every Tuesday," said Falletti, 56, a parishioner at St. Theodore's Church in Gates.

At first, participation in this weekly ritual was limited to Falletti and her mother, Maria Martusciello, 78, who lives with her. One by one, word of the weekly event spread among neighbors and friends, then



Bill Hawken

As many as 40 adults gather every Tuesday night at Dominic and Anna Falletti's home in Gates to recite the rosary in Italian.

friends of friends.

Most of the participants are Italian immigrants. Though the crowd comprises mostly women, Falletti said that husbands have begun sticking around for the rosary instead of simply dropping their wives off.

"Nobody made them do it, and that's what was nice," said Falletti, whose husband, Dominic, also takes part.

No matter how many people show up,

Falletti said she finds room for them.

"I just say, 'Thank you God, thank you' for all the people," she remarked.

Tina Maiola, 47, said she also attends rosary services at her parish, Holy Family in Rochester, where the prayers are recited in English.

"When you pray and know the language, it makes a lot of difference," Maiola said. "This is a beautiful ceremony."

Sarah Chichi, 58, added that the Tuesday-night rosaries are intensely spiritual.

"When we say it in Italian" — she paused

and sighed deeply — "you feel it. You enjoy it; it's nothing you can beat," said Chichi, a member of St. Jude's Church in Gates.

Sally Mangiola, 67, noted that the Tuesday group selects some of the songs she remembers from her homeland.

"I don't know many songs in English," said Mangiola, also a member of St. Jude's.

Martusciello is responsible for the services' music, and she's only too happy to assist anyone unfamiliar with the verses.

"I teach everybody," said Martusciello, a parishioner at St. Anthony's Church in Rochester.

A portion of the service is also dedicated to offering prayers for the recently deceased and the sick. The prayers have apparently worked for Falletti, who said her cancer is in remission and she feels fine.

"It's the power of prayer. You'd better believe it," she said.

Chichi said she enjoys the gatherings for their social as well as religious aspects.

"We meet a lot of people. I feel bad whenever I can't come," she said.

Cristina Tartaglia, a temporary participant, found a home away from home at the Tuesday rosary services. Tartaglia, who resides in Italy, attended the rosaries for four months while on an extended visit this year with her son, who lives in Hilton.

Tuesday-night "regulars" emphasized that the rosary is open to anyone. So chances are, vehicles will take up an even greater portion of the street in the months to come.

"The neighbors haven't complained yet," Maiola said with a laugh.

Obituary

Hannah Wilkinson, parish cook

Hannah McHugh Wilkinson, rectory cook at St. Mary's Church, Auburn, for 36 years, died Oct. 2, 1999, at Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester. She was 86.

A native of Donegal, Ireland, Mrs. Wilkinson immigrated as a child to Philadelphia, Pa. She moved to Auburn with her husband, Eric Wilkinson, in 1947.

In addition to cooking in St. Mary's rectory, she cooked for the Sisters of St. Joseph at their convent. She belonged to the St. Mary's Rosary & Scapular Society, the Mercy Auxiliary and the Ladies Auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Father Robert J. Schrader, pastor of St. Mary's, recalled Mrs. Wilkinson fondly.

"She was a woman of great faith and great humor and great dependability," Father Schrader said. "She'd be here at 5:30 in the morning just to start lunch."

Mrs. Wilkinson is survived by six children, E. Patrick Wilkinson, James M.

Wilkinson and Timothy J. Wilkinson of Auburn; Maryann Charette, also of Auburn; Kathleen McMahon of West Chester, Pa.; and Theresa Volk of Rochester; her brothers Francis and Bernard McHugh, who reside in Ireland; her sisters Mary Sweeney and Sarah Ann Boyce also of Ireland; 13 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Wilkinson was predeceased by her husband; daughter Janet Sarah Wilkinson; and brothers Michael, Patrick and James McHugh.

A funeral Mass was celebrated on Oct. 6 at St. Mary's. Interment was at St. Joseph's Cemetery, Auburn.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Rev. James D. Cuffney Trust Fund, St. Mary's Church, 15 Clark St., Auburn, N.Y. 13021.

— Rob Cullivan

LAMPLIGHTER

Lunch Specials

BEGGARS PURSE

Filo pastry filled with a fresh seafood served on a red bell pepper sauce \$8.95

CHICKEN AU POUIVE SANDWICH

Pepper crusted chicken breast served on French bread with a spicy Dijon sauce. \$7.95

SOUP & SANDWICH

Each day our chef creates a new interesting combination \$5.95

All Lunch Specials served with a choice of soup or salad

SERVING LUNCH
Tuesday - Friday

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

GRILLED PORK TENDERLOIN

Pork tenderloin served with a Rosemary Dijon cream sauce. \$15.95

PARMESAN CRUSTED SALMON

Filet of salmon topped with a Parmesan cheese and served with a lemon dill sauce. \$17.95

MAITRE' D RIB

Prime rib grilled with a peppercorn crust and topped with a maitre d butter \$15.95

PORTOFINO

Lobster, shrimp, scallops and crabmeat 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