

Open wide the doors to Christ

Diocese announces jubilee pilgrimage sites

By Kathleen Schwar
Assistant Editor

Once they've moved through the doors into the Great Jubilee Year, some parishioners likely will turn their thoughts to pilgrimage. Since the first jubilee year in 1300, Christians have made pilgrimages as a jubilee practice to rededicate themselves to God.

In his 1998 bull of indiction for the Jubilee Year 2000, "The Mystery of the Incarnation," Pope John Paul II wrote, "A pilgrimage evokes the believer's personal journey in the footsteps of the Redeemer: It is an exercise of practical asceticism, of repentance for human weaknesses, of constant vigilance over one's own frailty, of interior preparation for a change of heart."

In accord with the pope's wishes, the Diocese of Rochester has established five churches to serve as pilgrimage sites for the jubilee year: Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester; St. Mary's, Auburn; Immaculate Conception, Ithaca; St. Mary's, Corning; and St. Stephen's, Geneva.

The five churches will be open for pilgrims' visits every day from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in winter and until 5 p.m. in summer. The diocese does recommend confirming those times with the churches before parishioners begin their pilgrimages, however.

These individual and family pilgrimages, "will be in one sense a moving with fellow Christians around the diocese to explore places of prayer," said Joan Workmaster, diocesan directory of liturgy.

"We've lost that sense of devotional prayer in our lives. This may be a good way to bring it back," she commented.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark likewise is planning his own pilgrimage through the diocese. His visits will begin Wednesday, Jan. 19, at Holy Family Church, Auburn, and conclude in December at the cathedral. Each will include evening prayer, a dialogue and reception. Dates are still being finalized.

"The idea of going on a pilgrimage is very important to the content of a Jubilee

Year," the bishop stated. "I am delighted to make this pilgrimage through the diocese, visiting and praying with my brothers and sisters in Christ in preparation for the Third Millennium."

Also, the Monroe County family networking group is planning a diocesan family pilgrimage from June 1 to Oct. 15, culminating with a celebration for families Sunday, Oct. 15, at the New York State Chiropractic College in Seneca Falls. Materials will be published in spring to assist with family activities and visits to holy sites being designated. The group originally gathered as support for families participating in family faith formation.

Plenary indulgences will be granted in connection with pilgrimages to the five diocesan sites. Each pilgrim will receive an indulgence for visiting all five sites, praying for the pope while there, and celebrating the sacraments of reconciliation and Eucharist regularly throughout the year.

Workmaster acknowledged the granting of indulgences may concern some people because of negative connotations related to historical abuses of indulgences and declining interest in them since the Second Vatican Council.

The selling of indulgences in Medieval Ages, for example, led to the Protestant Reformation. In addition, the use of indulgences contributed to people's image of God keeping a ledger of accounts.

"Our concern is that people understand what (indulgence) is all about — in the contemporary sense," she said. "We realize God doesn't operate with a ledger."

Instead, an indulgence can be defined as grace gained for the steps that we take, such as prayer, fasting, alms giving, good works and pilgrimage, Workmaster said.

"God's grace is always present to us," she said. "Pilgrimages are one way to open ourselves to the grace that's already present."

The pope's bull of indiction for the year 2000 described conditions for earning an indulgence. "The whole jubilee journey, prepared for by pilgrimage, has

as its starting point and its conclusion the celebration of the sacraments of penance and of the Eucharist," it stated.

Among means the pope outlined for earning indulgences were acts of charity and penance; visiting holy sites in Rome and the Holy Land; making a sacred pilgrimage to a cathedral or other designated churches; visiting the sick, the imprisoned and homebound; and abstaining for at least a day from smoking or alcohol.

In Ithaca, Immaculate Conception Parish is looking forward to being a pilgrimage site, said Father George Heyman, pastor. A committee will set up a special jubilee area in the church, with a jubilee banner, prayer cards for the pope,

and lights, near one of the shrines, he said.

Father Heyman preached about indulgences Dec. 12, but acknowledged that he had to study up on the subject first.

"It is not the old indulgence of the Middle Ages, when people had a negative image, a mechanical image — you pass 'go,' collect \$200 ... It's nothing automatic."

While sin is forgiven through the sacrament of reconciliation, God indulges us in a special extension of mercy during certain years of God's favor, he said.

God forgives sins and we are reconciled, but something remains to be healed and purified, he said, adding that an indulgence is a special extension of mercy.



Mike Mergerv/Photo intern

Millennial eggs

Maria Wovk's spiritual mission of hand-painting 2,000 eggs for the year 2000 is completed. "These eggs are dedicated to Jesus Christ's birthday," she said. Each egg took an hour to complete. Wovk drew a design in wax on each, then dipped the egg into a dye bath. Each has a different design, thus no two are alike. Wovk has been perfecting this art, called pysanky, since she was a child in Poland. A parishioner at St. Joseph's Church, Irondequoit, she said she'd like people to see the eggs but has no plans currently to display them.

Obituaries

Father David J. Faraone, pastor; loved movies and preaching the Word

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Father David J. Faraone, pastor of Church of the Epiphany in Sodus and its mission, St. Rose of Lima in Sodus Point, died on Dec. 19, 1999. He had been hospitalized due to complications after he collapsed in the rectory Oct. 18. He was 43.

Father Faraone grew up in St. Augustine's Parish in Rochester before moving to St. Theodore's Parish in Gates. He attended St. Augustine's School, McQuaid Jesuit High School, St. John Fisher College and Becket Hall. He was ordained April 19, 1985, by Bishop Matthew H. Clark at Our Mother of Sorrows Church in Greece.

His first parish assignment was at St. Mary's Church in Auburn, where he was associate pastor from 1985-88. He then served as parochial vicar at St. Joseph's Church in Penfield from 1988-90 before serving in the same capacity at Our Mother of Sorrows from 1990-94, where he had also served as deacon intern prior to ordination.

Father John H. Hayes, pastor of St. Joseph/St. William Faith Community in Livonia, worked as an assistant at Our Mother of Sorrows in the late 1980s, and remembered that the parishioners there had loved Father Faraone's work as a deacon. He added that he and Father Faraone maintained a steady correspondence through e-mail, and that he would often quote from

Father Faraone's homilies in his own.

"They were down-to-earth," Father Hayes said. "They were real. He'd talk about real-life situations that needed to be talked about. He gently challenged people."

"He was just a great, great man, one of the greatest homilists I ever knew."

Longtime friend Father Robert S. Bourcy, pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Macedon, also said that Father Faraone was a fine homilist.

"What he enjoyed most in life was preaching, and breaking open the Word," Father Bourcy said. "He prided himself on that."

Father Faraone delighted in his pastorate at Church of the Epiphany/St. Rose of Lima, which he assumed in 1994, Father Bourcy said.

"He loved being a pastor," Father Bourcy said. "He enjoyed the people there immensely. He enjoyed all his assignments."

Epiphany Deacon Edward R. Sergeant said the priest was well-loved by his flock.

"He was not only our pastor, but a tremendous friend as well," Deacon Sergeant said.

The deacon added that Father Faraone was a big movie and theater buff, and that the rectory was adorned with hundreds of autographed pictures of movie stars.

"It was like an art gallery," Deacon Sergeant said. "People would come through, and he would invite them to look at the pictures."

Sadly, the deacon said, Father Faraone had tickets and backstage passes to see pop music star Neil Diamond in Rochester the night the priest died. But the deacon said he will always remember Father Faraone's great love of show business.

"He was real tough at Oscar awards time," the deacon recalled of the annual movie industry awards ceremony with a chuckle. "He knew who was going to win the Oscars."

In addition to his parish duties through the years, Father Faraone served on the

diocesan Liturgical Commission from 1986-94, and had been a member of the diocesan Priest Personnel Board since 1997.

Father Faraone is survived by his brother, Donald (Maria) Faraone; his sisters Linda McAllister and Mary (Fred) Vieira. His was predeceased by his mother, Christine.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark was scheduled to celebrate Father Faraone's funeral Mass Dec. 23 at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester. Interment was planned at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Father Joseph M. Egan, 82; professor, Elmira priest

Father Joseph M. Egan, longtime professor at St. Bernard's Seminary, who also served in several Elmira parishes for more than 30 years, died Dec. 20, 1999, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira. Father

Egan, 82, had been suffering from complications related to pneumonia.

A full obituary on Father Egan will appear in the *Catholic Courier's* Jan. 6, 2000, issue.

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