

DIOCESAN NEWS

Rochester sisters celebrate newest profession

By Kathleen Schwar
Assistant Editor

PITTSFORD — Dianne Crowley, the newest Sister of St. Joseph, professed her final vows Jan. 2 at the motherhouse chapel. Some 450 Sisters of St. Joseph, friends and family members witnessed the event.

About 20 sisters watched a simultaneous telecast in the nearby infirmary, many adding their "Amen" to such poignant moments as Msgr. William H. Shannon's blessing of the ring that symbolized their new sister's commitment and faithfulness to God.

Although Sister Crowley had been with the Sisters of St. Joseph for eight years as an applicant, an associate, novice, and then temporary professed member, her final profession was the high point of her commitment, she said.

"It is like marriage or anything, when you come to the point where you say yes, I couldn't be doing anything more fulfilling right now with my life," Sister Crowley said in an earlier interview. "This is what I want to proclaim."

Her commitment is the same one made by sisters who took their vows in 1650, 1850 and 1950, she stated.

Indeed, watching the celebration brought back happy memories for Sister Francis Helen Goschke, who entered the congregation in 1943 and watched from the infirmary. "There was this inner feeling," she remarked. "You felt almost pre-



Bill Hawken

Sister Janice Morgan, president of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, presents Sister Anne Crowley, right, with a symbolic ring Jan. 2.

sent with them."

"It was a wonderful moment of renewal for us as Dianne made her vows," commented another sister at the infirmary. Now in their 70s, 80s and 90s, these sisters noted they had entered the order in "bands" of 20 to 50 other women. Sister Campion Bush, the infirmary's assistant coordinator who entered the Sisters of St.

Joseph in 1952, noted that she was permitted to invite no more than 14 guests to her final profession to prevent overcrowding.

Sister Crowley, 49, chose Epiphany Sunday for her final profession, symbolically linking her own journey — particularly her eight years with the Sisters of St. Joseph — to that of the Magi following the Star of

Bethlehem.

"That really has been what my journey has been about, finding God in places I never thought I would go, in things I never thought I could do, because you have the support of the community," Sister Crowley said.

The Sisters of St. Joseph are "thrilled" that the star stopped over their congregation that Sunday morning, said Sister Karen Dietz, SSJ, featured speaker at the profession.

"We are symbolic of the longing of the human heart for God," Sister Dietz observed.

The daughter of Eugene and Anne Crowley, Sister Crowley was raised in East Bloomfield, in St. Bridget/St. Joseph's Church, and was taught by Sisters of St. Joseph in St. Mary's School in Canandaigua and St. Agnes High School, Rochester. She taught in Honeoye Central School for 22 years.

Although she had always considered her work a type of ministry, she said, becoming one of the 405 Sisters of St. Joseph gives her a "fuller sense of God and people."

"You are more than just yourself, with all the other people in this congregation," she said, explaining that she feels a connection to St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center, St. Joseph's Hospital, and the sisters' many other ministries.

Today Sister Crowley is coordinator of preschool and aftercare program at St. Monica's School in Rochester, an administrative role she said she might not have considered without her community's support and encouragement.

Acknowledging a continuing decline in the numbers of women religious, she said she was not afraid of the future. She added that she believes women will continue to join religious life, although different styles of membership may evolve.

"Few of us know fully what we take on when we profess our vows, because life is an unknown," Sister Crowley said.

"Lord knows that," agreed Sister Agnes Paula Shambo. Sister Shambo, who entered the congregation in 1928, had watched the profession from the infirmary.

Sister Shambo's advice to Sister Crowley: "Pray."

St. Joseph's House to close emergency shelter

By Rob Cullivan
Staff Writer

St. Joseph's House of Hospitality in Rochester will no longer offer emergency overnight shelter as of March 31, according to Kevin Eubank, coordinator of the Rochester Night Shelter, the emergency shelter program hosted by the house.

Tom Malthaner, one of two live-in volunteers at the Catholic Worker facility on South Avenue, said the large number of guests — averaging 40 to 45 a night — is a strain on the center. The shelter, formerly called Safe Haven, peaked at 61 guests two days before Christmas.

"We just don't have the in-house staff to handle it," Malthaner said, noting that three to five people oversee the emergency-shelter program.

He and Eubank noted that the guests sleep on cots, couches and in sleeping bags in the center's dining area and hospitality room. As many as 30 people have slept in the dining room, and as many as 20 have slept in the hospitality room.

Meanwhile, 13 beds on St. Joseph's second floor are occupied by long-term guests, Malthaner said. He added that the St. Joseph community of volunteers and

staff members voted about three months ago to end the emergency-shelter program and focus on the center's other programs, which include a lunch program that operates six days a week.

Eubank is working to continue the shelter's services, however. He is devoting his time to finding a building that could house a new permanent shelter. The new shelter would not be a Catholic Worker facility like St. Joseph's, but it would operate with the same ideals of caring and respect for each guest's needs, he said.

He added that local agencies, including Catholic Family Center as well as the Salvation Army, have expressed interest in supporting a new shelter financially. Meanwhile, he said, the Homeless Service Providers Network, an organization of various area agencies, has agreed to help apply for funding grants.

St. Joseph's offered a few emergency shelter beds in the fall of 1998. But the shelter that Eubank established nine months ago mushroomed in size after a blizzard last February. He said he had thought the other city shelters would cover most of the need, with his shelter providing care for only "a few people here or there."

Malthaner said that many of the guests were originally sleeping outside in the city every night.

"We're pulling them from the subway by-passes, from the roads," he said. "We're just trying to provide a safe place for people to be."

Eubank added that while most of the guests are men, a few women also stay at the shelter each night, and volunteers and staff members stay up all night to monitor the guests.

"We rove constantly to make sure there are no problems — and there are no problems," he said. "Everyone cooperates."

About one-third of the guests are employed, often as homeless day laborers. Many have turned to St. Joseph's as a last resort, he said.

"Basically, our clients are the people who fall through the cracks," Eubank said. "They have severe addictions to alcohol, drugs."

In addition to operating the shelter and the soup kitchen, St. Joseph's offers religious services every Tuesday evening; hosts a walk-in program on Sunday afternoons that includes dinner; and refers guests to various educational and social services available in the area, Malthaner said.

Recognizing

★ **McQuaid Jesuit High School** provided Christmas food baskets to 32 local families associated with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society Upstate Chapter and Dimitri House. Students, faculty and staff donated more than \$3,000 to support such places as Mt. Carmel House, Southeast Ecumenical Ministries and St. Peter's Kitchen. They've carried on the food basket tradition since 1972.

★ **Bernadette Josbeno-Onakes**, an emergency nurse at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, was selected the Southern Tier's Registered Professional Nurse of Excellence for 1998, by the Southern Tier Regional EMS Council. She is a lector and eucharistic minister at St. Mary's Church, Elmira.

★ **Carol Freeman** and **Sharon Delmendo** received Teacher-Scholar Awards and **Edward Stendardi** received the Service to College Award from St. John Fisher College. Freeman is associate professor and chair of the Mathematics, Science, and Technology Department. Delmendo is assistant professor of English, and Stendardi has led the Enrollment Management Committee. **Margot Backus**, associate professor of English, received the college's Trustees' Distinguished Scholar Award

this year.

★ **Sister Mary Walter Hickey**, RSM, principal at Elmira Notre Dame High School, was the November recipient of the Twin-Tiers Outstanding Educator Award. Sister Hickey has been principal at Elmira Notre Dame since 1975, and served as assistant principal the previous three years. Sister Hickey received \$500 for her award, and Elmira Notre Dame received another \$500. Outstanding Educator Award recipients are selected by a community panel. Nominations are sent in by students, parents and other educators. The award is administered by the Elmira Star-Gazette.

★ The Sixth Annual Marian Conference held Oct. 2 raised enough donations for expenses that its steering committee awarded \$10,000 to **Father Albert Shamon** for the growth and development fund of Tyburn Academy, an independent high school in Auburn chartered by the N.Y. Board of Regents. Father Shamon is spiritual director of the school. Linda Josh and David Duprey, conference co-chairpersons, presented the check.

★ **Catholic Daughters Court, Nativity 931**, Brockport, celebrated its 75th anniversary Oct. 17 with a banquet at the Village Inn in Childs, with more than 80 members and guests.

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