

DIOCESAN NEWS

Sister makes final vows

Anna Donahue went to Rutgers University on a running scholarship more than five years ago. On April 26 the 24-year-old was to make her final vows as Sister Anne of the Sisters Minor of Mary Immaculate. The ceremony was scheduled at St. Hyacinth Church in Auburn.

According to her mother, Cindy Donahue, Sister Anne felt a calling while at college and visited the convents of several orders.

"She was kind of at the right place where God wanted her to be, because we were sure surprised," Cindy said, explaining that her daughter had planned to go into sports therapy. At Rutgers she often saw poor people on the streets and tried to help them, she said.

Founded in 1983, the Sisters Minor of Mary Immaculate recognize St. Maximilian Kolbe, OFM Conv., as their father and inspirer, Cindy Donahue said, and also follows the Carmelite spirituality of St. Therese of Lisieux. Sister Anne was drawn to St. Hyacinth's Church for her profession when she saw the impressive shrine the church has devoted to St. Maximilian inside its front doors.

Sisters in the institute profess four vows — poverty, chastity, obedience and total consecration to Mary. Sister Anne expect-



ed to receive her blue scapular and blue yoke at her profession; she has been wearing a light blue long habit and veil.

The sisters are contemplative missionaries. They spend six hours a day in prayer and adoration, with other hours spent in service, Cindy Donahue said. The order has communities in the United States, Italy, France, Poland and Turkey. Sister Anne currently works in a village nursing home in Segillo near Assisi, Italy.

Sister Anne, the eldest of four daughters of Cindy and Dennis Donahue, was born

in Scranton, Pa. The family has lived in New York for 17 years and attends Mass at St. Isaac Jogues Chapel, Fleming.

"I've just never seen her so happy," her mother said. "It makes me feel good as a parent knowing she's doing what she wants to do."

"For a 24-year-old who not that many years ago was in her rebellious years as a teenager, it's interesting," her father commented. "In fact, it's beautiful."

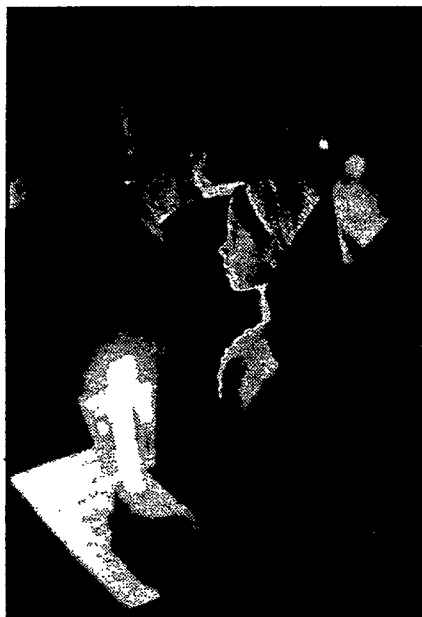
St. Isaac Jogues' has another young parishioner in the Sisters Minor of Mary Immaculate. Sarah Spence entered the order two years ago and is studying with the sisters in Rome.

— Kathleen Schwarz



Mother of all vigils

St. Rita's Church, Webster, was filled to capacity for Easter Vigil, April 22. Each parishioner held a candle that served as the only light for the first half of the service. Above, Kellynn Killips is baptized by Father Charles Latus, pastor.



Mike Mergen/Photo intern

Community welcomes Chileans

Sisters of Mercy from the Regional Community of Rochester celebrated the professions of Sister Lilian Silva Aparicio, 37, and Sister Valeria Vicenzo Catalana, 27, on Feb. 17, at their mission in Santiago, Chile.

Sisters Sheila Stevenson and Mary Ann Binsack attended the profession ceremony, which took place at San Luis Church. Father Roberto Pavez presided at the eucharistic liturgy, which also was attended by Sisters of Mercy from Chile, Argentina and Peru, family members, friends and parishioners.

Sisters Aparicio and Catalana are the fourth and fifth native Chilean women to join the Rochester regional community. Their Mercy community in Chile, which dates back to 1965, includes five sisters from the Rochester regional community and one each from Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. In addition to parish work, members assist women and children working toward self-sufficiency and provide extended care and assistance to people with AIDS.

The formation program in Chile began 13 years ago and, in addition to the two temporarily professed sisters, also has resulted in three women who have taken per-

petual vows.

Sister Aparicio, who is from Vina del Mar, Chile, and Sister Catalana, a native of Santiago, both entered the Sisters of Mercy in 1996. They spent two years as candidates and just completed two years as novices, living in three different local communities in the Santiago and Vina del Mar areas. Each has completed three years of study in theology, spirituality and religious life at Coneferre in Santiago.

Sister Aparicio has served in pastoral ministry in several parishes where she has worked with children and youths, and has directed liturgical music groups. She will continue to live and minister in an area just outside Santiago called Huarnachuco.

Sister Catalana also has done pastoral ministry with children and youths, particularly in spiritual development and sacramental preparation. She will move to the town of Rungue, about two hours outside Santiago, to live with three other Sisters of Mercy. There she will provide pastoral ministry to youths and children in Rungue, where there are 77 families, and six miles away in Montenegro, a town with 68 families. Both communities are desert towns where the people are very poor and services are very limited.

Conference designed for 'separated'

If you've been separated from your spouse, divorced or widowed — or are in a family affected by these turns of events — HOPE 2000 Conference planners say you may find comfort and insight at their event.

The all-day conference Saturday, May 20, will take place at St. Charles Borromeo School, 64 Maiden Lane, Greece. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The program will conclude with a 5 p.m. Mass, followed by a catered dinner and a dance.

Keynote speakers are Dr. Dennis Boike, who operates a Rochester counseling service, and Sister Karlien Bach, RSM, religion teacher at All Saints Academy in Gates.

HOPE 2000 will offer a wide range of workshops, such as a sexuality session offered by Anne Paluskiewicz, a teacher at Our Lady of Mercy High School in Brighton. Paluskiewicz said her workshop is designed to help people affected by death and divorce balance "their need for intimacy and praising God in their aloneness."

Other HOPE 2000 workshops will focus on self-love; the grieving process; trusting God; annulments; remarriage; finances; addictions; legal issues such as custody, visitation and domestic violence; communication; keeping a sense of humor; and

helping children understand.

HOPE 2000 will also offer a teen session focusing on self-esteem and self-love; getting needs met; and understanding loss.

Sister Bach's keynote talk will be titled "Why HOPE?" She said that hope, especially in times of despair, is essential to our Catholic faith.

"It's believing that God is in the darkness, in the brokenness — with us," Sister Bach said.

Peg Cunningham, conference co-organizer said HOPE 2000 will hopefully remind Catholics they are welcomed and accepted, despite their family circumstances.

"The people need to know that the church is compassionate to them," Cunningham emphasized. She added that the conference is open to non-Catholics as well.

Cunningham and her husband, Deacon John Cunningham, are organizing HOPE 2000. They belong to St. Christopher Church in North Chili.

EDITORS' NOTE: To register for HOPE 2000, call 716-293-3337. Pre-registration is not required but strongly encouraged. Financial assistance is available.

— Mike Latona

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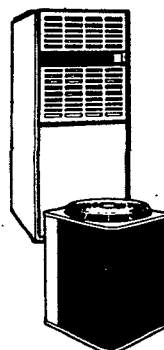
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