

DIOCESAN NEWS

Leadership Days to key on jubilee year themes

By Mike Latona
Staff Writer

The year 2000 is almost two-thirds gone, but its jubilee theme is still alive and well in the Rochester Diocese.

Take, for example, the diocesan Leadership Days being held Aug. 16-18. The event's theme is "Jubilee ... Spirit for Tomorrow," and will include many workshops with jubilee-themed topics.

Leadership Days will take place at New York State Chiropractic College in Seneca Falls. The annual event will gather several hundred parishioners, priests, religious and lay pastoral leaders. Though its programs are designed for parish staffs, anyone may attend. Pre-registration is required.

"We'll hopefully give people tools and ideas and thoughts and teaching to carry on the spirit of the jubilee," said Kathy Cannon, director of diocesan Parish Support Ministries, whose office is coordinating Leadership Days.

Serving as a keynote speaker for Leadership Days will be Bishop Matthew H. Clark, whose Aug. 18 talk is titled "Beyond the Jubilee." The bishop will address how jubilee themes will help the diocese as it increases its lay ministry and copes with the decline of its ordained ministry.

The other keynoter will be John Bell, an internationally renowned liturgical musician from Scotland. Bell will address living out the themes of jubilee through both spoken word and song.

Cannon noted that the diverse set of workshops — more than 50 in all — will be offered by "every area of the Pastoral Center," as well as representatives from St. Bernard's Institute, parishes and other ministries in the diocese.

Giovina Carosio, executive director of

Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes, will present "Living the Jubilee Pledge." Carosio said the workshop will trace the history of jubilee and its meaning. Particular attention will be paid to Leviticus 25, which speaks of the directives to be followed in a jubilee year.

Two members of the diocesan Women's Commission, Christine Bochen and Father George Heyman, will lecture on "Jesus 2000: Who Do You Say That I Am?" Father Heyman said the workshop will focus on artistic and literary imagery of Christ.

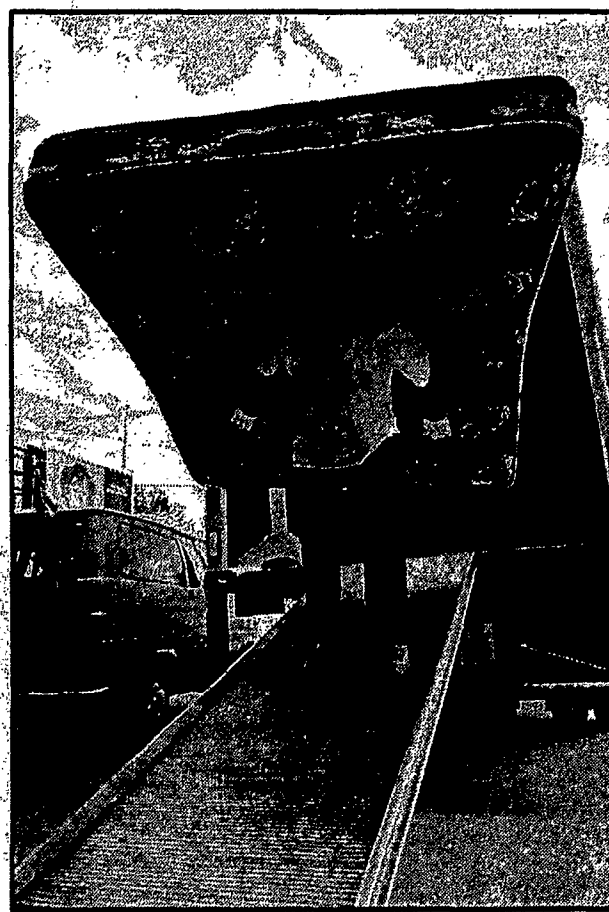
"How do the images impact us today; are they still relevant? How do they help us in our understanding of Jesus today?" said Father Heyman, who serves as pastor at Catholic Community of the Blessed Trinity in Wolcott-Red Creek-Fair Haven.

Also in keeping with the jubilee theme, "Many Faces in God's House: Encuentro 2000" will be presented by Ha Nguyen, diocesan director of the Asian Apostolate; Lourdes de Chateauvieux, assistant director of the Hispanic Apostolate; and Gaynelle Wethers, director of multicultural affairs at Nazareth College.

Nguyen said that the workshop will examine multicultural diversity in the year 2000. It will revisit many of the points raised at "Encuentro 2000," a national conference attended by Nguyen, de Chateauvieux and Wethers in July in Los Angeles. Encuentro 2000 sought to apply the jubilee year's theme of reconciliation toward ethnic harmony.

"This year, especially, we want people to open their hearts and minds to their brother and sister," Nguyen said. "We still have a long way to go."

EDITORS' NOTE: Registration is still open for Leadership Days. Call 716/328-3210, ext. 342, or 1-800/388-7177, ext. 342, for details.



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

A new beginning

Rick Bombard, a parishioner of Sacred Heart Cathedral, moves a mattress into the Betlem Services Building in Rochester on Aug. 4. Bombard and other volunteers helped Saints Place, an organization from St. Louis Church in Pittsford that ministers to refugees, temporarily relocate storage facilities from Webster. Saints Place sets the families up with an entire home's furnishings. It is still in search of a permanent place to store furniture.

Old church is Haven's new home

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

A former Catholic church and rectory will be the site of a homeless shelter currently operating at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality in Rochester.

Kevin Eubank, coordinator of Safe Haven Project Inc., said his group is working to move the shelter to the former rectory of the old St. Bridget's Church within the next two weeks. St. Bridget's congregation moved to the old St. Theresa's Church building in 1997,

and renamed the church St. Bridget's.

Meanwhile, the old St. Bridget's became the home of Antioch Apostolic Faith Temple, whose congregation left this month due to financial difficulties. Semi-retired lawyer Leo J. Kesselring, a parishioner at Good Shepherd Church, Henrietta, and a volunteer at St. Joseph's House, had worked with the temple on its financial problems and became the church's mortgage-holder in 1999.

In discussions with Eubank at St. Joseph's, Kesselring learned that he was looking for a new home for Safe Haven, which had mushroomed from its beginnings as an emergency shelter. So Kesselring decided to donate the old St. Bridget's to Safe Haven. The donation will be officially made sometime in December or November, Eubank said, after Safe Haven obtains not-for-profit tax-exempt status.

The shelter will serve 25-30 men and, in part, be federally funded, Eubank said, adding that it needs private donations and volunteers. He also said that Safe Haven will renovate the rectory first and operate there while renovating the church. When church renovations are complete, the church will serve as shelter, drop-in center and a medical dormitory. The rectory will become a residence for live-in employees, he said.

To learn more about Safe Haven, call 716/530-2254.

Author frankly addresses problems of the priesthood

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out of a desire for physical intimacy, but for spiritual and emotional intimacy with another person as well, Father Cozzens wrote.

"If there are not a few truly close and intimate friends in the priest's life, he finds himself in serious danger," he wrote. "And his efforts to remain in spiritual union with God do not compensate for the existential anguish that grips his soul. At this point, the hunger for a romantic and sexual relationship easily becomes all encompassing."

The book's most controversial chapter focuses on gay priests and seminarians. Whereas estimates of the percentage of gay males in the general population range from 5 to 10 percent, Father Cozzens wrote, various studies allege that 28 to 58 percent of Catholic priests and seminarians are gay.

Part of the reason is attributable to the fact that thousands of straight priests left the priesthood to marry in the tumultuous years following the Second Vatican Council, he wrote, adding that the prevalence of gay priests and seminarians may deter straight males from entering the priesthood.

"My experience as a counselor and spiritual director to priests and seminarians suggests that straight men in a predominantly or significantly gay environment commonly experience chronic destabilization, a common symptom of which is self-doubt," he wrote in chapter seven. "The destabilization in question is similar to the unease that travelers encounter when moving about in countries whose language is unfamiliar to them."

Just raising questions about homosexual priests and seminarians can bring charges of homophobia, Father Cozzens acknowledged in his book.

He added that gays have always been represented in the church's clergy, and that the vast majority working today are effective ministers if not outstanding. Nonetheless, he asked, if the priesthood is becoming increasingly a "gay profession," what does that mean for the church at large and for the lay people priests are called to serve?

Another point the book makes is that Catholic families have fewer children than in years past, and that parents may be reluctant to encourage the few sons they have to enter the priesthood since they want the family name to continue. Also, young men now have a dizzying array of choices when it comes to careers, and the priesthood, an attractive profession to sons coming from impoverished immigrant families decades ago, is now just one of many possibilities.

Not all is gloom and doom, Father Cozzens stressed, noting that many priests are quite happy in their vocation, and that many lay people continue to affirm priests through words of encouragement and other support. He added that the clergy have weathered several storms in recent years, including the negative publicity when a few hundred priests nationwide were found in the past two decades to have sexually abused minors. Today's priests have gone through a "dark night," he said, but now there's hope on the horizon.

"We've been through an awful lot, and we have come out of the last decade as men without illusions," Father Cozzens said of priests in his speech. He added that lay people and priests need to listen to one another and pray that the Holy Spirit will point the way to solutions to the vocations crisis.

"I think if that happens, that the Spirit is going to find room to renew us and to move us forward."

Father Anthony P. Mugavero, pastor of St. Bridget's Parish, Rochester, attended

the author's speech, and said he thought most priests would agree with much of Father Cozzens' assessment of the priesthood. However, Father Mugavero did question Father Cozzens' conclusions about the alleged prevalence of gays in the priesthood, noting that "it's not been my experience."

Father Mugavero said that the church needs to consider how it is packaging its message to potential recruits for the priesthood. The priesthood is rooted in a strong desire to share Jesus with others, he noted, and the church needs to convey that message to men considering the priesthood.

"I think there has to be a passion to anything that's attracting others," he said.

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LAMP LIGHTER

DINNER SPECIALS TUESDAY-SATURDAY

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BEGGAR'S PURSE

Filo dough filled with Langostinos, Scallops and Crab with a Red Pepper Sauce.

SCALLOPINI OF PORK

Dusted with Spices and Quickly Sautéed, Served with Pearl Onions, Butternut Squash, Roasted Pecans and a Marsala Wine Sauce.

DINNER SPECIALS MONDAY-SATURDAY

GRILLED DUCKLING

Boneless Duck Breast Over a Bed of Wild Rice, Peppers, Mushrooms and Roasted Hazelnuts with a Zinfandel Rhubarb Sauce.

PAN FRIED SOLE

Dusted with Spices, Sautéed in Olive Oil and Finished with a Lemon Butter Sauce and a Touch of Capers.

MAITRE' D RIB

Prime Rib Grilled with a Peppercorn Crusting

PORTOFINO

Lobster, Shrimp, Scallops and Crabmeat Sautéed in Olive Oil and White Wine, Served with Artichoke Hearts and Black Olives Over Pasta.