

DIOCESAN NEWS

Families will join bishop for diocesan pilgrimage

Families from around the diocese, together with Bishop Matthew H. Clark, will join a worldwide family celebration by gathering at a Jubilee Family Pilgrimage 2000 from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 15. The pilgrimage will be held at New York State Chiropractic College on Route 89 in Seneca Falls.

"Pilgrimages are a very important part of a Jubilee Year because they are a time for journey, hope and reflection," Bishop Clark stated. "This special day, which we have been planning for more than a year, is a special time during this Jubilee Year that families from across the diocese will be united, to pray together and play together. I look forward to meeting and praying with the many people of our diocese."

More than 200 volunteers will assist with the event, which is expected to draw hundreds of households. Activities are planned for people of all ages and will include prayer, skits, drama, music and arts and crafts.

Bishop Clark is scheduled to celebrate a prayer service at 4 p.m. and will bless water from the various families. People are invited to bring small containers of water from home, noted Gail Brooks, chairman. The water will be mixed together in a pool for the blessing.

Participants also are invited to bring a picnic lunch, but food and beverages will be sold. They also may bring lawn chairs

for outdoor events.

The idea for the pilgrimage came from a family faith formation networking group, Brooks said.

"It was a dream we began talking about two years ago," she said. "That was our vision, to celebrate who we are as a diocese, as the people of God."

Chairpersons for the day are Marilyn Smith-Stearns, former director of faith formation for the Catholic Communities of St. Anne Parish, Palmyra, and Scott J. Rutan, diocesan coordinator of catechetical programs and services.

In addition, Brooks noted, "We have over 12 different committees and 24 people on the core team who are making this day possible. People have put a lot of work into it."

Diocesan families have been preparing for the event all year, with workbook materials issued through the Department of Evangelization and Catechesis for home and parish; and "Treasures in Our Midst," a pilgrims' guide to various diocesan sites.

Passes for the Oct. 15 event will cost \$5 per family and will be available at the door as well as at individual parishes. They also may be obtained by calling Sylvia Mancuso at the diocesan Pastoral Center at 716/328-3228 or 800/388-7177.

Brooks said organizers hope to obtain an estimate of participants before the event.

— Kathleen Schwarz

Catherine L. Solan begins Sisters of Mercy candidacy

Catherine L. Solan became a candidate for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas in a welcoming ceremony Aug. 30 at the motherhouse chapel in Brighton.

Solan, 45, joined 13 other women in western New York and western Pennsylvania, as well as associated missions in the Philippines, Chile and Peru, who are in the incorporation process. She now lives with the community of women religious at Our Lady of Lourdes convent, Rochester. A native of Greece, she has been in informal discernment with the sisters since 1996.

Solan is the daughter of the late Deacon Bob Solan, who was in the first class of permanent deacons and who died in 1995, and Clara Solan, of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Greece. She works as an administrative assistant in the diocese's department of legal services.

After candidacy, which ordinarily lasts two years, she will be received into the novitiate. First vows are taken two years after that, with perpetual profession of vows completing the stages of incorporation. Perpetual vows may be made three to six years after first vows.

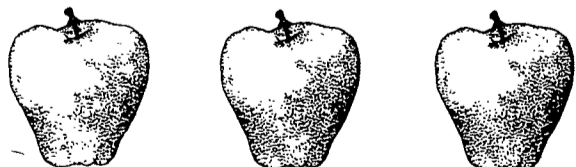
Correction

The woman religious on the left in a photograph on Page 4 of the Sept. 7 Bishop Joseph L. Hogan memorial issue is Sister Anne Urquhart, SSJ, who was helping place the pall on the bishop's casket at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse.

St. Ann's Community and ViaHealth of Rochester General Hospital present

14th Annual

Community Care Health Fair



Thursday, September 21, 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

St. Ann's Home

1500 Portland Avenue, Rochester, NY 14621

Free Admission, Refreshments and Door Prizes

With over 30 booths offering information and health screenings.

The fair is designed to create awareness of community resources.

For senior citizens and those who care for the elderly.

For More Information Call: 544-6000 extension 427



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

Fair takes the cake

Joe Avery, 10, of Farmington, laughs as he receives a green birthday cake he won in the cake wheel game at the St. Patrick's Irish Fair at St. Patrick's Church, Macedon on Sept. 9.

Father Hammond resigns as pastor

By Mike Latona
Staff Writer

Father Robert W. Hammond, on administrative leave from Irondequoit's St. Margaret Mary Parish since March, has resigned from that pastorate.

A diocesan statement released Aug. 25 said that Bishop Matthew H. Clark received Father Hammond's resignation letter Aug. 23. In accepting the resignation, Bishop Clark stated, "Father Hammond's offer is a reflection of his deep concern for the welfare of the parish and his personal decision to seek other ways through which to share his wonderful ministry in the diocese."

Nancy DeRycke, interim pastoral administrator at St. Margaret Mary since Father Hammond went on administrative leave, will continue in that role until a permanent leader is assigned.

Priest coverage for the 2,200-family parish is being supplied by Fathers John Rosse, Peter Bayer and Matt Kawiak.

Father Michael Conboy, diocesan director of priest personnel, said Father Hammond is eligible to apply for a new parish assignment that would begin July 1, 2001. Until then, Father Hammond will supply "priest coverage wherever needed" upon returning to active duty, Father Conboy said. He did not specify when Father Hammond will return, or where he is staying.

Father Hammond was placed on administrative leave by Bishop Clark on March 9 to address personal concerns. The Aug. 25 diocesan statement said these con-

cerns are not related to criminal activity or behavior.

Because this is a personnel matter, Father Conboy declined to give further details. Father Conboy had said in March that Father Hammond's leave of absence arose from "issues and concerns that have been surfacing" at St. Margaret Mary.

John Pagano, St. Margaret Mary's parish pastoral council president, told the *Catholic Courier* that he had spoken with Father Hammond shortly before the pastor was placed on administrative leave. Pagano said Father Hammond had acknowledged a rift between himself and staff members from the parish and St. Margaret Mary School, and that the matter had been brought to the attention of diocesan officials.

Yet Pagano said he was very surprised by Father Hammond's sudden departure last March, as well as his resignation.

Pagano was among parishioners who attended a Sept. 7 discussion session at St. Margaret Mary that was led by DeRycke and an outside facilitator. Pagano, who said that close to 100 people attended, remarked that the session failed to shed light on why Father Hammond left the parish.

Another St. Margaret Mary parishioner, Steve York, said that "a lot of people are very, very hurt," adding, "He did a lot of good things for St. Margaret Mary, but things happen."

Father Hammond, who turns 61 on Sept. 26, became pastor of St. Margaret Mary on July 1, 1998, after serving 11 years as pastor of St. Mary's Church in Bath.

Catholic Charities affiliate agency makes name change

Catholic Charities Community & Residential Services is now known as Catholic Charities Community Services. The name change took effect Sept. 1.

"The agency's new name places emphasis on the complete range of agency services offered in the community setting," Paul Pickering, executive director, stated in a press release.

The agency serves persons with developmental disabilities, traumatic brain in-

juries and HIV/AIDS disease. Services are provided without regard to religion, race or ability to pay.

The agency, which operates independently, is an affiliate of Catholic Charities.

Its main offices are at 1945 East Ridge Road, Irondequoit. It also maintains a finance office in Geneva, and operates nine residential facilities for disabled people in Monroe, Wayne and Yates counties.



The LeRoy Historical Society

The LeRoy Historical Society's

JELLO GALLERY

23 East Main Street LeRoy, NY 14482

For Information Call 716-768-7433

Celebrating 100 Years of Jell-O!

