

DIOCESAN NEWS

Nurses hope for new offer; OK strike

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Nurses at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, voted Sept. 19 to authorize a strike should contract negotiations fail to produce an agreement.

However, the nurses are waiting to see what offer the hospital will make in any possible new meetings before taking further action.

Denis Sweeney, hospital spokesman, said St. Joseph's had not been officially notified of the vote, but learned of it through news media reports.

A federal mediator has been overseeing meetings between representatives of the nurses' union, the Albany-based New York State Nurses Association, and the hospital. Union spokesman Mark Genovese, speaking from his Albany office, said that no meeting had been slated so far between the two parties, as the *Catholic Courier* went to press Sept. 26.

Although he did not reveal the number of nurses who voted for strike authorization, Genovese said the number was "overwhelming." NYSNA says it represents 136 nurses at St. Joseph's, although the hospital says that figure is higher.

The nurses have been working without a contract since May 31. Chief among the issues dividing them from the hospital is St. Joseph's pension plan, Genovese said. NYSNA has been calling for the hospital to create a pension plan that pays more than the \$13 per month currently paid for each year of retirees' service to a hospital.

"If a nurse sees a better plan at another hospital, she's going there," Genovese said.

However, in previous statements, Sweeney said this figure only represents the hospital's non-contributory retirement plan, and that the hospital also contributes \$1.25 for each dollar an employee invests in a contributory retirement plan, up to a maximum employee contribution of \$3,125. The hospital also offers tax-sheltered annuities.

Other issues include disputes over pay,



John Powell/Photo Intern

Heads up!

Rachael Doell of Bishop Kearney spikes the ball during the game against Nazareth Academy on Sept. 21 at Nazareth in Rochester. Despite the efforts of Rachael and her team, they lost to Nazareth, 3 sets to 0.

overtime, nurse-to-patient ratios and alleged understaffing. In contract negotiations, the hospital has made what it considers its "final economic offer," Sweeney said, but Genovese countered that "no offer is ever final."

If the nurses do go on strike, they are

required by law to give St. Joseph's 10 days' notice, as well as notify the New York State Health Department and the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service in Washington, D.C. Genovese said that it is likely the union would give 11 or 12 days' notice.

Obituary

Father Ronald Harley, 61; pastor, St. Agnes, Avon

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Father Ronald P. Harley, pastor of St. Agnes Parish, Avon, was found dead in the rectory on the morning of Sept. 26. He was 61.

Joan Ippolito, parish office supervisor, said his sudden death was all the more tragic because he had only been pastor at the church since mid-1999.

"We only got to know him for a brief time, but he was a great asset to our parish," she said.

Mary Lou Marks, St. Agnes pastoral minister, said Father Harley had lived long enough to see his dream of a parish family picnic realized at St. Agnes. The Sept. 17 picnic drew 350 people.

"He was thrilled and just overwhelmed by the response," she said.

Born in Rochester, he was baptized at Good Shepherd Church, Henrietta, and attended Lima High School as well St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries, Bish-



op Fulton J. Sheen ordained him a priest June 3, 1967. Following ordination, Father Harley served as assistant pastor at St. Mary's Parish, Elmira, from 1967-70 and St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Greece, from 1970-74. He then served as associate pastor at four churches consecutively: St. Paul's, Webster, from 1974-79; Our Lady of Lourdes, Brighton, from 1979-80; St. Mary's, Rochester, from 1980-82; and St. Mary's of the Lake, Ontario, from 1982-84. Prior to going to Ontario, he served six months in 1982 as temporary administrator at St. Paul's Parish, Webster.

In June 1984, Father Harley became pastor of St. Pius the Fifth Parish in Cohocton. In June 1988, he was named pastor of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Geneva. While there, he earned the love and respect of many parishioners including Elizabeth

Wiatrowski, who was president of the pastoral council during much of his tenure.

"He was absolutely wonderful," she said. "He was not only our pastor, he built us spiritually."

Father Harley took up his position at St. Agnes in June 1999. Msgr. Gerard C. Krieg, priest-in-residence at St. Louis Parish, Pittsford, who served as pastor of St. Stephen's Parish, Geneva, from 1983-1999, also served as administrator of St. Francis de Sales for six months after Father Harley left. He remembered his fellow Geneva pastor as a people-oriented priest.

"I certainly enjoyed his presence in Geneva and enjoyed watching the love of the people of St. Francis for him," Msgr. Krieg said.

Father Harley's body will lie in state at St. Agnes on Thursday, Sept. 28, 3-7:30 p.m. A solemn evening prayer will follow. Bishop Matthew H. Clark will preside at a funeral Mass on Friday, Sept. 29, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Agnes. The priest's body will be cremated.

TGA

Continued from page 1

Adults program for 750 people who became Catholic.

• Urban ministry programs and relief and emergency services for the elderly, the infirm and the very young.

Speakers were slated to travel on the weekends of Sept. 30-Oct. 1 and Oct. 7-8, to various diocesan parishes to speak personally with parishioners about TGA, according to Myszka. The speakers will be Diocesan Pastoral Center employees, diocesan ministry directors and TGA advisory committee members, she said, and their talks are designed to buttress the efforts of lay leaders, pastors and volunteers helping with the TGA. Parishes are asked to promote the TGA through bulletin announcements, speakers, homilies, posters, and personal contact between volunteers and potential donors. Catholics can give to the appeal all year.

The TGA began in 1981 and has raised more than \$69 million. More than 40 percent of all registered parishioners have supported TGA, according to the diocese.

Father Edward L. Palumbos, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Greece, is co-chairing the TGA advisory committee with Richard Pirozzolo, an active parishioner at St. Mary Our Mother Parish, Horseheads. Father Palumbos said this year's TGA is designed to convey the idea that parishioners' donations mostly serve parishes' needs.

"We're making special efforts to help people understand how TGA keeps our diocese moving forward," he said. "We're trying to emphasize that catechists, RCIA, computer systems, personnel, office support, whatever comes to Buffalo Road only comes here so that it can go back out to help the parishes."

OCTOBER SPECIALS

LUNCH

Shrimp Alexander

Jumbo shrimp stuffed with goat cheese wrapped in bacon and set on a bed of sautéed escarole.

Homemade Meatloaf

Served the old fashion way with garlic smashers, snow pea pods and a mouth-watering Bordelaise sauce.

Catch of the Day

Each day the Lamplighter features a new and interesting seafood selection.

DINNER

Lobster Lasagna

Lobster, langoustines, asiago and Marscapone cheese layered with spinach pasta and complimented with a lobster sauce.

Rack of Lamb

Marinated in balsamic and crusted with Dijon, makes my mouth water just to talk about it.

Portofino

Lobster, shrimp, scallops and crabmeat sautéed in olive oil and white wine served with artichoke hearts and black olives over a bed of pasta.

Maitre'd Prime Rib

This Angus beef is crusted with crushed peppercorns and grilled to perfection.

Lunch: Tuesday-Friday 11:30 to 2:00

Dinner: Monday-Thursday 4:30 to 10:00

Friday and Saturday till 11:00

LAMPLIGHTER

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is the
To Life issue