

DIOCESAN NEWS

Obituary

Bread's creator dead at age 91

If you've ever eaten a slice of Monk's Bread found in many area grocery stores, you owe a debt to Brother Sylvester Thomas Patrick McCormick, of the Cistercians of the Strict Observance. The last surviving monk among founders of the Abbey of the Genesee in Piffard, he died Oct. 18. He was 91.

"We lost our mascot," said Brother Augustine Jackson, OCSO. "It's going to be hard to replace that guy."

Brother Sylvester contributed the formula for the abbey's Monk's Bread, according to his community's members.

"At the outset of World War II, (Brother Sylvester) enlisted in the Navy and was assigned to the cruiser, USS Tuscaloosa," said Brother Jackson. "Originally he thought he would be a gunner, but bakers got \$30 per month more, so he became a breadmaker and bequeathed that skill to us."

Born in Rutherglen, Scotland, Brother Sylvester was one of 11 children, four of whom died in Scotland. He was the oldest of the seven who survived to emigrate to Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1927.

During the Great Depression, he took a job as a press feeder and attended classes at night. He enjoyed soccer and the German team he played with called him "Lansman." He also loved boxing and received another nickname, "Corrie" (Lefty).

He served in the Mediterranean during the war, and several times his ships were sunk. Eighteen months after his discharge he was certain he had a vocation to monastic life, so he entered Gethsemani, the famed monastic community near Bardonia, Ky., in 1948.

On April 5, 1951, Brother Sylvester arrived with the founders in Piffard, to establish Gethsemani's fourth daughter-house. Besides helping to make Monk's Bread, he served the community for many years as cobbler, porter and mailperson.

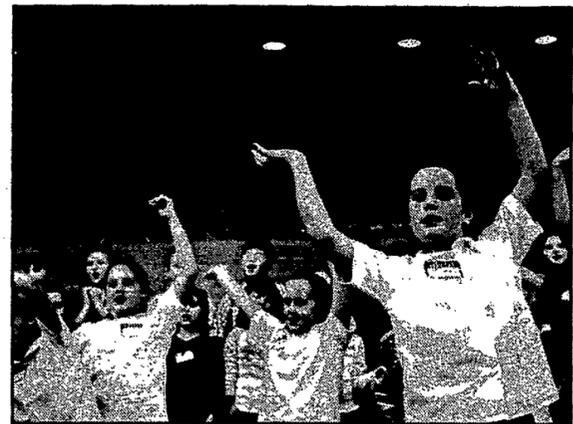
"At the gate, where most visitors to the Abbey encountered him shoveling snow or cleaning something, he always knew the right thing to say," Brother Jackson said. "If you were poor, he was poorer, if sad, sadder, if on top of the world, he'd say, *Tempus fugit, momento mori* (time flies, remember death). He could be grave or mirthful, whatever was called for. He never sent the poor away empty-handed, as he could be seen at odd hours filling boxes with foodstuffs or clothing to hand to some needy family."

In 1981, Brother Sylvester had open-heart surgery and said Jesus appeared to him to calm his fears. He said Jesus told him "You are my friend," and that was his most memorable encounter in his later years.

"He exhibited a great interior joy after that that was apparent to all," Brother Jackson said.

Brother Sylvester is survived by his sisters Mary and Catherine, and his brother, William, all of Cincinnati.

Father John Eudes Bamberger, the abbot of the abbey, celebrated a funeral Mass for Brother Sylvester on Oct. 19. His body was interred in the abbey's cemetery.



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

No fiddling around

(At left) Max Klotz, a second-grader at St. Louis School, plays the cello at Christ the King Church, Irondequoit, Oct. 21 at "Celebrating the Gifts of Our Young People," a program sponsored by the diocesan Office of Liturgy and the Diocesan Music Committee's Youth & Worship Subcommittee. (Top photo) Kelsey Moriarty, a fifth-grader at St. Margaret Mary School, leads the St. Margaret Mary Chorus in "Song at the Center."

'Heralds of faith' to study

Catechetical leaders throughout the state will be trained to become "heralds of faith" at the second statewide convocation for parish catechetical leadership Nov. 3 in Syracuse and Nov. 4 in Queens.

Four of the workshop leaders are from the Diocese of Rochester.

"Any time you form leadership, it has an impact on the ordinary person," noted Maribeth Mancini, diocesan director of evangelization and catechesis. "The reason you do formation of leaders is so people in the pew have the opportunity for the best possible experience."

She noted that the convocation follows a 1998 gathering that introduced the New York bishops' document "The Catechist in the Third Millennium: Call, Mission and Formation." The sessions are sponsored by the Council of Diocesan Directors of Religious Education and the New York State Catholic Conference, which plan to present such convocations every two years. The evangelization and catechesis office coordinated this year's workshops.

Each workshop will focus on one of the six tasks for catechists described in the new General Directory for Catechesis: knowledge of faith, liturgical education, moral formation, teaching to pray, education for community life and missionary initiation. Father Robert Kennedy will teach on liturgical education; Sister Patricia Schoelles, SSJ, on making disciples in a moral-formation session; and Sister Karen Dietz,

SSJ, and Michael Theisen on "Living in Christ," how catechetical leaders, principals, youth ministers and pastors can build communities that embrace the ideas of community described in the Gospel.

The major theme of the new directory, issued by the Holy See in 1997, is evangelization, noted Sister Dietz, coordinator of sacramental catechesis.

"We're still kind of unpacking it, because it has such a different focus from the previous one," Sister Dietz said, referring to the international directory, which came out in 1971. "Its primary focus was the word of God as the catechetical motivator. The new directory has taken that to the next level. It ... says in knowing the word of God and person of God through Jesus Christ, it tells us to evangelize and share with others." That is essential no matter whom the catechist is teaching, she said.

"In catechesis, either people are coming for formation and you are enkindling their faith, they're getting on fire about their faith, or you're bringing people unfamiliar with the faith."

Keynote speaker this year will be Father J. Glenn Murray, SJ, director of the Office for Pastoral Liturgy for the Diocese of Cleveland and principal drafter of "Plenty Good Room: The Spirit and Truth of African American Worship," a document from the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Liturgy and the Black Catholic Secretariat.

- Kathleen Schwarz

Design a card for Christmas issue

If you were to create a card reflecting your feelings about this Christmas season, what would it say? What would it look like?

You can send your card to the entire diocesan community, through the *Catholic Courier's* special Dec. 21 Christmas issue. Design a card with your own message and send it to the *Courier* by Friday, Dec. 1.

Photographs, drawings, paintings and other forms of art are welcome; the wording, as well, is entirely up to you.

The *Courier* staff will choose one submission for the cover of the Christmas issue. Several others will be published inside the issue. Entries will not be returned.

Send your cards to: *Catholic Courier*, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624.

Recognizing



Molly FitzPatrick, the daughter of Daniel and Lynn FitzPatrick of Wayland, was one of eight finalists in a statewide competition marking the 200th anniversary of Catholic schools in New York state. The contest was sponsored by the New

York State Catholic Schools Marketing Committee, which is made up of school public relations experts from all the state's dioceses. Molly is a sixth-grader at St. Joseph's School, Wayland, and her poster was featured at a Sept. 22 afternoon social in the school to commemorate the bicentennial.

The Lyell Avenue Revitalization Committee Inc. has inducted Sister Diana Dolce, SSJ, and Father Daniel McMullin into its "Hall of Fame." Sister Dolce is executive director and principal of Hope Hall School in Gates, and Father McMullin is pastor of Corpus Christi

Church, Rochester, and former parochial vicar of St. Anthony of Padua, Holy Apostles, St. Peter and Paul and St. Francis of Assisi parishes, all on Rochester's west side where Lyell Avenue runs.

Herman Brown, a junior studying foreign languages and history at Nazareth College, Rochester, is one of the nation's top 20 minority students named by the Institute for International Public Policy and United Negro College Fund. Recipients must maintain at least a 3.2 grade point average. A Nicaragua native who lives in Queens, Brown is studying in Italy and will study in France in the spring.

LOOK...



See the special insert in this week's issue of the Catholic Courier

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