

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Penn Yan church celebrates 150th

St. Michael's Church, Penn Yan, is celebrating its 150th anniversary with a series of events this month.

Special festivities are centered around each 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. The parish's history was the focal point of Nov. 5; parish youth and other aspects of the future were highlighted Nov. 12; St. Michael's Church of today — with acknowledgements of parish staff and volunteers — is the focus for Nov. 19; and a visit by Bishop Matthew H. Clark is planned for Nov. 26. The liturgy with Bishop Clark is to be followed by a breakfast in the church hall.

"Our theme is the past, present and future," said Kathy Moon, who, along with Penne Marchionda, serves as co-chair of the 150th-anniversary celebration committee.

Other highlights during November include a photo display of St. Michael's, available for viewing all month in the back of the church; and publication of a commemorative booklet, to include photographs of the anniversary events as well as reflections submitted by parishioners.

"A lot of people have been working hard on this, and they've done an excellent job," stated Father Philip Billotte, pastor of Our Lady of the Lakes Parish. St. Michael's is one of six churches in that cluster.

St. Michael's, located in Yates County near the northern tip of Keuka Lake, was founded in the late 1840s by 15 Catholic families who had settled in Penn Yan. The original St. Michael's Church was opened in 1850 on Pine Street (now Keuka Street). It remained a center of worship until 1902, when St. Michael's current church building, located at 312 Liberty St., was built to accommodate the growing Catholic popula-



John Powell/Photo Intern

St. Michael's children's choir members Brittany Griffiths, 8, (middle) and Alice Swarouth, 8, read together at Mass Nov. 12. The children's choir sang during the Mass as part of the parish's 150th anniversary celebration.

tion in Penn Yan.

The parish's school has been in operation since 1882. St. Michael's School currently serves grades pre-K through fifth.

St. Michael's acquired a mission parish in 1878, when St. Andrew's Church in Dundee was founded. In 1999, those two churches were reconfigured as part of the newly formed Our Lady of the Lakes Parish. Other churches in the cluster are St. Theresa, Stanley; St. Mary, Rushville; St. Januarius, Naples; and St. Patrick, Prattsburg.

"I hope that the legacy of our 150th-year jubilee would be that we, as a parish, continue to be adaptive to any changes facing us," said Moon, referring to such issues as clustering and a shortage of priests and nuns.

St. Michael's is a 900-family parish that also serves a large contingent of summer visitors to Keuka Lake. In addition, St. Michael's offers an outreach to Hispanic migrant workers and their families.

— Mike Latona

## Study

Continued from page 1

Father Conboy said that a moratorium on permanent parish leadership assignments has been imposed until June 26, 2001. The selection process for those positions will take place in the spring.

Father Conboy noted that only one priest ordination is scheduled for 2001. He said he is "fairly certain of two retirements," but said the number could reach as high as four or five. These projections do not include priests who may become unavailable as a result of such unforeseen circumstances as death, illness or administrative leave.

Several pastors have publicized Bishop Clark's Oct. 11 letter in their parishes. And Father Gary Tyman, parochial vicar at Fairport's Church of the Assumption, noted

## Appointments

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following parish appointments:

Father Peter Deckman, to priest-in-charge of St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Auburn, from parochial vicar, Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Community, effective Nov. 13. Father Deckman is serving in the absence of Father Robert Beligotti, who was placed on administrative leave Sept. 15.

Nancy DeRycke, continuing as temporary pastoral administrator, St. Margaret Mary Parish, Irondequoit, through July 1, 2001. She has served at St. Margaret Mary since Father Robert Hammond, pastor, was placed on administrative leave March 9.

Father John Gathenya, to parochial vicar, Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Community, effective Nov. 9. Father Gathenya comes to the Diocese of Rochester from Kenya. Our Lady of the Lakes includes Dundee, Naples, Rushville, Penn Yan, Prattsburg and Stanley.

Barbara Swiecki, to temporary pastoral administrator, St. Agnes Parish, Avon, effective Nov. 22. She will take over the administrative duties of Father Ronald Harley, pastor, who died Sept. 26. She will also continue as pastoral associate at Church of the Transfiguration, Pittsford.

several statistics regarding the priest shortage in his parish's Oct. 29 bulletin. Using information provided by the diocesan Office of Human Resources, Father Tyman stated that from 1995-2000, 33 diocesan priests retired. Fourteen priests died in active duty, while only nine ordinations took place. During the next five years, an average of eight priests are expected to retire per year, with just one ordination expected per year.

Father Tyman also remarked that the priest total in the United States is about equal to its level of 60 years ago, but that the Catholic population has tripled in the interim. In 1942, he noted, there were 788 Catholics for every Rochester diocesan priest — but in 2002, that ratio will be 2,933 Catholics per priest.

Several recent changes have signaled the signs of the times. Since March, four pastorates have opened up due to deaths and administrative leaves, resulting in five new appointments to fill the gaps. In only one of those instances was a diocesan priest appointed: Father Peter Deckman became priest-in-charge at Auburn's St. Francis of Assisi. The other four spots were filled by lay administrators and African priests.

Nancy DeRycke and Barbara Swiecki are serving as temporary pastoral administra-

tors of Irondequoit's St. Margaret Mary and Avon's St. Agnes, respectively. Kenyan Father George Okoth is pastor at St. Thomas Aquinas/St. Lucy in Leicester/Retsof, and Father John Gathenya, also from Kenya, replaces Father Deckman as parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Lakes.

Father Deckman began in Auburn Nov. 13. His title of "priest-in-charge," according to Father Kevin McKenna, diocesan chancellor, is used for a priest who assumes administrative duties for a very limited period. Diocesan officials did not specify how long Father Deckman is expected to serve in Auburn.

Father Deckman is the second full-time priest to recently leave Our Lady of the Lakes: In early September the other parochial vicar, Father Sean Garrity, CSB, relocated to New Mexico.

Father Philip Billotte, pastor, said that he has struggled to find sacramental help for Sunday Mass in his six-church cluster, relying mostly on retired priests.

"It's difficult for us. I think there's concern for the priests; people are wondering if we're going to get help," Father Billotte said. "We're missing (Father Deckman's) gifts and talents. But where he's going, he's needed also."

## Dwyer will resign

Timothy W. Dwyer, diocesan superintendent of Catholic schools since 1992, has announced his resignation effective July 1, 2001.

Dwyer, 47, said he will return to his native Michigan, where his wife, Carol, has accepted a position in Grand Rapids. She will begin in January as chief operating officer of St. Mary Mercy Hospital.

Since Dwyer's arrival, the diocesan school system has seen stabilized enrollment throughout its 12 counties after several years of steady decline. Under Dwyer's administration, the decision to close a school only occurred once (Rochester's Most Precious Blood) after numerous closings in the late 1980s and early 1990s.

Dwyer also oversaw regionalization of the Catholic Schools of Monroe County from a four-quadrant system into a countywide system. As part of that evolution, he created the Catholic School Board of Monroe County in the mid-1990s.

"Our school system has made great strides in governance, financial management, marketing and strategic planning," said Father Joseph Hart, moderator of the diocesan Pastoral Center, in a statement.

Father Hart added that the diocese will establish a national search for a new schools superintendent.

"We regret Tim's decision but certainly understand his desire to return to Michigan, where he and his wife will be closer to their families. Catholic education in Rochester is stronger for his presence and work," Father Hart said.

Dwyer, meanwhile, said he feels committed to completing the school year in the Rochester Diocese.

"There are a lot of things we want to finish here," he remarked.

Dwyer added that he plans to seek a position in Catholic school administration in Michigan.

— Mike Latona

Catholic Courier (USPS 135-580)

Vol. 112 No. 7, Nov. 16, 2000

Published weekly except the last Thursday in December. Subscription rates: single copy, 75¢; one-year subscription in U.S., \$20.00; Canada and foreign \$20.00 plus postage. Offices: 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624, 716/328-4340. Periodicals postage paid at Rochester, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### Research study of investigational PNEUMONIA VACCINE

- Age 65 and older
- Have never had a pneumonia vaccine
- Payment up to \$325.00
- Parking will be paid

FOR MORE INFORMATION

PLEASE CALL

**273-3990**

We're closer to doing business with you than you think!

# Advest

Serving Investors Since 1898

Announcing our new west side location:

90 Erie Canal Park Drive • Suite D • Rochester, NY 14625

(Near the corner of Ridgeway and Long Pond)

Now there is no reason to travel into the city for your

financial services — it's all in Greece!

• Full service brokerage firm • Online access to accounts • Top industry research • No proprietary products • Specializing in retirement planning

Call your Advest, Inc. team today!

**453-2820**

Thomas M. Sime, V. P. Investments

Karen Destino, Phoebe Downing and Marian Brone

With over 25 years of experience

Member NASD & SIPC