

## FEATURE

## Wayne County man adds new role to long list

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

At age 87, Frank Griffin loves his Catholic faith just as much as ever — if not more.

"Probably the greatest thing I realized as I got older was, I was baptized a Catholic. I consider it a great privilege to be a Catholic, to have the privilege of attending Mass every day," Griffin stated.

The North Rose, Wayne County, resident is two-time past president of the Daily Mass League in the Rochester Diocese. He has been active in numerous other church organizations, and has also made three trips to the Holy Land in his retirement.

His attachment to the Holy Land recently landed Griffin a big honor. In September he was installed as a Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, in a ceremony at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. With Archbishop Edward M. Egan (now Cardinal Egan) officiating, Griffin was among 150 men and women who became new members of the order's Eastern Lieutenantcy.

Griffin noted that Bishop Matthew H. Clark wrote a letter on his behalf, a necessary step for any applicant. Knights in the Order of the Holy Sepulchre help finance hospitals, dispensaries, laboratories, social centers, churches and schools in the Holy Land and surrounding territories.

Griffin has viewed some of these facilities first-hand, and he isn't ruling out a fourth trip to the Holy Land even though



Photo courtesy of Duncan Studio

his most recent visit was in 1992.

"You can't believe, almost, that you're walking in the places that the Lord actually did," Griffin said. "Maybe the word would be 'mystique.' It drives you back; maybe that's why I'd like to go back again."

His new affiliation with the Order of the Holy Sepulchre is his latest in a long series of church involvement. He recently concluded his second 10-year term as president of the Daily Mass League, a diocesanwide

group that promotes attendance at daily Mass and also sponsors a live televised Mass every Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on WHEC-TV 10.

Griffin is a parishioner at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Wolcott, which is part of the Catholic Community of the Blessed Trinity cluster. He frequently attends daily Mass at either St. Mary Magdalene or St. John the Evangelist in Clyde. And, on many weekends, the well-traveled Griffin goes to Mass at St. Rose of Lima Church in Sodus Point.

Griffin serves as eucharistic minister and lector at St. Mary Magdalene; is former president of his area's Nocturnal Adoration Society; is a member of the Sacred Heart Apostolate in Syracuse; belongs to the diocesan, state and national Right to Life groups; and is a devoted viewer of the Eternal Word Television Network.

"Frank always had unquestionable loyalty to the church and Holy Father," recalled Father John Forni, pastor at Catholic Community of the Blessed Trinity from 1993 until last June. "He always said his Stations of the Cross before morning Mass. He had a great discipline in his prayer life, especially in terms of traditional devotions."

Griffin, a Rochester native, grew up in Blessed Sacrament Parish, graduating from Blessed Sacrament School and Aquinas Institute. His studies at Niagara University were interrupted by World War II; he served three years in the U.S. Army Air Corps. After the war, Griffin worked as an insurance adjuster before moving to CIT

Automobile Corporation as a district manager. He was then an executive with Marine Midland Bank for 14 years before retiring in 1978.

Griffin's first wife, Margaret, died 17 years ago. He remarried nine years ago; he and his wife, Mary, moved to North Rose at that time. He had lived for more than 40 years in Pittsford, where he was a parishioner at St. Louis Church. Griffin has three sons, one daughter and six grandchildren. Many of his relatives were on hand when he was inducted into the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.

In addition to his Catholic Church activities, Griffin has served in numerous capacities for such senior-citizen organizations as Monroe County Office for the Aging and Wayne County Office for the Aging. He once hosted a show for senior citizens on Rochester's WOKR-TV 13, and on WHEC-TV 10 he was a frequent guest of the late talk-show host Eddie Meath. Griffin is also proud of his pioneering role with the Rochester chapter of OASIS, a national program that offers such activities for seniors as dancing, crafts, and seminars by well-known medical experts.

Griffin, who celebrated his 87th birthday in December, still drives to daily Mass and also takes part in weekly prayer protests at the Planned Parenthood facility in Newark. He exercises regularly, he said, and has no major health restrictions.

"My doctor says I should be playing golf," Griffin remarked.

If he could ever find the time.

## Religious and priests accelerate retirement planning

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Religious sisters, brothers and priests have accelerated their retirement planning in recent years, according to a survey conducted by the National Religious Retirement Office in Washington.

To help reverse the U.S. crisis in unfunded retirement liability, individual religious institutes have been:

- Selling or finding more productive uses for their property.
- Engaging in fund-raising efforts.
- Relying on outside investment advisers.

• Collaborating with other religious communities on retirement projects.

• Operating their own Medicaid-licensed care facilities or using other such facilities.

• Enrolling members in such government entitlement programs as Medicaid, Medicare and Supplementary Security Income, or SSI.

Compared with data collected Dec. 31, 1995, the latest survey data from Dec. 31, 1999, indicates "there has been a considerable expansion in the area of retirement planning and funding," said a statement

from the U.S. Catholic Conference.

Specifically, from 1995 to 1999, the number of religious institutes with their own development efforts increased from 37 percent of respondents to 61 percent, while the number consulting outside investment advisers rose from 62 percent to 89 percent, and from 44 percent to 76 percent among small institutes with 50 or fewer members.

Many religious institutes are using the proceeds from divested property to create or supplement continuing care funds for community members. Currently, 91 percent of responding institutes have such funds.

The statement said it is critical for religious to enroll in government programs for which they are eligible because, in 1999, some 5,800 men and women religious received skilled care costing \$204 million and nearly the same number were in assisted living facilities at a cost of \$141 million.

Moreover, the 1999 data showed that almost 42,000 of the 87,000 men and women religious in the United States are age 70 or older.

U.S. religious could not participate in the Social Security system until the 1970s. Consequently, the average annual pay-

ment to a retired religious is just over \$3,300, while the average U.S. benefit is \$9,650.

The latest findings were reported at the annual meetings of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, two of the sponsors of the national retirement office. The others are the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious.

The total past service retirement liability has decreased from a record \$7.9 billion in 1995 to \$6.4 billion.

Christian Brother John Patzwall, associate director of the retirement office, coordinated the latest study.

"The problem of financing the retirement of U.S. religious has not gone away," he said in the statement, "but it is becoming more manageable thanks to the work of the religious themselves, the generosity of those who contribute directly or through the Retirement Fund for Religious, as a result of our grant and consultation programs, and through a multitude of collaborative efforts."

The National Religious Retirement Office coordinates the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection and grants.

When Interest Income Counts, It's time to call GEN-SEE.

8.71%  
Annually

Earn More,  
Worry Less

Go with experience you can trust...

Since 1975, GEN-SEE investors have done better for 5 Great Reasons:

- Regular monthly checks • No fees or commissions
- Low minimum initial investment \$5,000.00
- High yields and capital growth
- Rate of interest guaranteed for term of Certificate



Make a fresh start...  
RIGHT NOW 8.71% Annually



Gen-See Capital Corporation

Call 1-800-507-4393



## Lakeville Estates

CORNER OF ROUTES 20A & 256 (NORTH END OF CONESUS LAKE)

A senior (over 55 yrs) manufactured homes community overlooking the scenic hills surrounding Conesus Lake

- 175 Sites • Double-wide, single-level, drywalled homes • Attached garages with blacktop driveways • All grounds maintenance performed by management • Fixed lot rental fees from \$225 to \$300 per month depending on lot size • Ideal for seniors on a fixed income • Price range of homes from \$70,000's and up • Models on site - various sizes • Purchase a model - immediate occupancy • Many floor plans available when ordering • Customize your home from options menu • Home delivery within 12 weeks when ordering • Walking trails • Streetlights • Projected clubhouse and recreational area • Free market appraisal on existing home, if necessary • Conveniently located to I-390 (Exit 8-1 mile), shopping, golf and Conesus Lake

Our intention is to offer you the independence and privacy of owning your own luxury home without the concern and expense of yard maintenance and provide you with more leisure time to pursue your own personal interests.

Call 716-346-6740



VISIT OUR OPEN HOUSE!

Mon. - Fri. 10 am to 5 pm • Sat. & Sun. 1 pm to 4 pm  
Dave Leugemors, Sales Manager  
(716) 346-6740 • Fax 346-6443