

# DIOCESAN NEWS



(From left) Liz Burke, her mother, Marion Burke, and sister Jeanette Burke, parishioners of Holy Apostles in Rochester, listen to a speaker discuss the problem of vacant properties in Rochester. Interfaith Action sponsored the event, which drew 825 people to Grace United Methodist Church in Rochester March 29. Interfaith Action wants 1,000 houses rehabilitated and 500 houses demolished. (Above, right) Jason Wright directs the Young Adult Choir of Progressive Church of God in Christ in Rochester, which opened the meeting.

## Hundreds for houses



David Wallace/Photo intern

## Obituary

### Maureen Nielsen, 33; lay missionary killed in Haiti

Sue Nielsen said she can remember her daughter, Maureen, always being something of a missionary.

At age 9, for example, Maureen was bringing home children with handicaps whom she had befriended at the Bay View Branch YMCA in Webster. The children came to the YMCA once a week, her moth-

er said, and Maureen naturally gravitated to them and included them in her life.

"Even at that young age, she knew exactly what she wanted to do," her mother said, recalling her daughter's thoughtful and caring demeanor.

Ms. Nielsen, 33, a lay missionary who formerly belonged to Corpus Christi Parish, Rochester, was killed in Haiti on March 23, sometime between 3 and 5 p.m. According to her brother, Timothy Mahoney, she had gone to a bank in the capital city of Port-Au-Prince when she realized she didn't have her passport for identification purposes. As she left the bank to return home to get her passport, a man held her up at gunpoint, he said. When his sister said she had no money, the man shot her in the neck. It was still unclear as of last week whether she died on the spot or in the hospital to which she was taken, her brother said.

Ms. Nielsen had worked in Haiti before, and her latest assignment had begun Oct. 31. She was working at a girls' orphanage supported by the Catholic Diocese of Norwich, Conn.

Ms. Nielsen was a member of Spiritus Christi, the breakaway community that was

formed primarily by former members of Corpus after its parish administrator, Father James B. Callan, was removed in 1998.

Born in Rochester, Ms. Nielsen grew up attending St. Joseph's Church and then Holy Spirit Church, both in Penfield. She was a graduate of Springfield College, Mass., and joined Corpus in 1988. In addition to her work in Haiti, Ms. Nielsen was active in other ministries, and worked at the now-defunct Pearl House, a halfway house for female ex-inmates that was operated by Corpus.

Ms. Nielsen's mother said she has been flooded with letters and phone calls from people whose lives her daughter touched. She was particularly moved by one man who said he had been in prison and her daughter had tutored him, enabling him to obtain his high school equivalency diploma.

"I don't know where she got it from, but she never saw wrong in anybody," her mother said.

In addition to her brother, of Mancos, Colo., and mother, survivors include her stepfather, Larry Nielsen of Webster; and numerous relatives.

A funeral service was held at Spiritus March 31. Interment took place at Mapleview Cemetery, Cohocton, where her body was laid to rest next to the body of her father, James Mahoney, who died in 1976.

—Rob Cullivan

## Appointments

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has announced the following appointments to pastoral leadership effective June 26:

• **Father Timothy E. Horan**, to pastor of St. Margaret Mary Parish, Irondequoit, succeeding Nancy DeRycke, temporary administrator. Father Horan is pastor of St. Andrew/St. Philip Neri Parishes, Rochester.

• **Father Edward L. Palumbos**, to pastor of the Church of the Assumption, Fairport, succeeding Father Gary Tyman, temporary administrator. Father Palumbos is pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Greece.

• **Father Gary Tyman**, to pastor of Holy Rosary/Most Precious Blood Parishes, Rochester, succeeding Father Lawrence V. Murphy, who is retiring. Father Tyman has been serving as temporary administrator at Church of the Assumption, Fairport.

• **Deacon Raymond A. Defendorf** is being appointed as pastoral administrator of St. James, Waverly, and St. Pius X, Van Etten, succeeding Father Thomas Watts, who is retiring. Deacon Defendorf is a pastoral associate of the Corning/Painted Post Roman Catholic Community.

• **Barbara Swiecki**, to pastoral administrator of St. Agnes Parish, Avon. She has been serving temporarily in that position since November, as well as part-time pastoral associate at Church of the Transfiguration, Pittsford.

• **Father Daniel McMullin**, to pastor of St. Mary's Parish in Geneseo, succeeding Father William Gordinier, who is retiring. Father McMullin will likewise have the concurrent duty of sacramental minister at SUNY Geneseo. Father McMullin is currently pastor at Corpus Christi Church in Rochester.

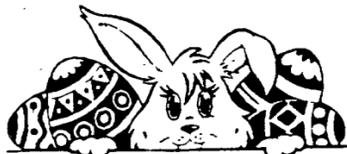
• **Father Frederick Helfrich**, to pastor of Holy Spirit in Penfield, succeeding Father Frederick Bush, who is retiring. Father Helfrich is parochial vicar at St. Theodore Parish in Gates.

• **Father Paul Bonacci**, to priest administrator of St. Mary of the Lake Parish in Watkins Glen and St. Benedict Parish in Odessa. Father Bonacci is parochial vicar at the Roman Catholic Community of Geneva.

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