

Airport kiosk features faiths

Churches of Monroe County

By the week after Easter, travelers arriving at the Greater Rochester International Airport will be able to pick up a brochure listing all the Catholic churches in Monroe County.

"It really is the result of an invitation the Greater Rochester Visitors Association extended," said Michael Tedesco, diocesan director of communications. The brochure also notes that travelers may call 1-800-MASS-TIMES toll-free to obtain any parish's Mass schedule.

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"As Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester, I invite you to experience our local Catholic Church," Bishop Matthew H. Clark states in the brochure. He noted the diocese serves 12 counties with a Catholic population of more than 360,000 people.

The brochure was to be placed in a kiosk with information about various faiths represented in Greater Rochester.

USCC to prepare cruise chaplains

By Tom Tracy Catholic News Service

NORTH PALM BEACH, Fla. —The cruise industry is attracting record numbers of travelers, many embarking at America's busy seaports.

But the chaplains who serve ships ought to have certification and better preparation, according to the U.S. bishops' point person for sea and air travel ministries.

"The cruise companies seek out their chaplains and this is good, but there has not been an organized effort at preparing them for ministry nor evaluation of the services ...," said Father John A. Jamnicky.

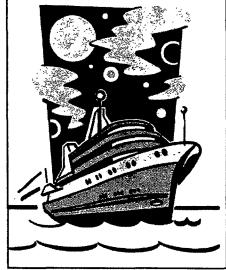
He is the national coordinator of mobility apostolates in the U.S. Catholic Conference's Migration and Refugee Services. He also serves as national director of the Apostleship of the Sea.

"We want to enlist chaplains to prepare them for certification and assign them," the priest said Jan. 24 in an address at a national conference of Catholic sea and airport chaplains held at Our Lady of Florida Spiritual Center in Palm Beach County.

Since cruises originate at ports throughout the country with various cruise lines, there has not been a single entity to monitor and promote better Catholic chaplaincy services on cruises, Father Jamnicky told *The Florida Catholic* diocesan newspaper in an interview during his visit to the North Palm Beach area Jan. 24-27.

Father Jamnicky, a priest of the Chicago Archdiocese, is in the process of building a national database of priests, religious, deacons and lay people who are already registered with individual Catholic dioceses around the country to serve as chaplains on cruise ships.

The number is around 1,000, with most of the chaplains based on the East and West coasts, the Gulf region and the Great Lakes



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The success of Father Jamnicky's efforts will depend on the support of the local bishops in those regions where the ports are based and where the chaplains are registered, he added.

"The local bishop is the one who has to support implementation of any of these ministries with personnel," the priest said.

Often given a complimentary cruise in exchange for providing religious services for a limited time to both cruise personnel and passengers, chaplains are in demand by the growing cruise tourism industry.

North American cruise line passengers increased from 1.4 million in 1980 to 5.4 million in 1998, according to a December article in the *Dallas Morning News*. It said the industry expects to enlarge that capacity by more than 30 percent by 2003. "They are talking about producing six new cruise ships per year," Father Jamnicky said.

Another trend is the growing popularity of weddings held aboard cruise ships, including couples who seek permission to bring their priest with them on the cruise. The process requires various permissions, including that of a local bishop.

Father Jamnicky — who in 1997 developed a guide published by the USCC for new airport chaplains, staff, bishops and others — said his success in building a national network of cruise chaplains will require the support of local bishops and the cooperation of the eight to 10 major cruise lines that operate in the United States. He said he will meet with cruise industry officials throughout the coming year.

Father Jamnicky said that he needs priests, deacons and laity who can work quickly with people on the move — both passengers and the people who work long hours on the cruise ships.

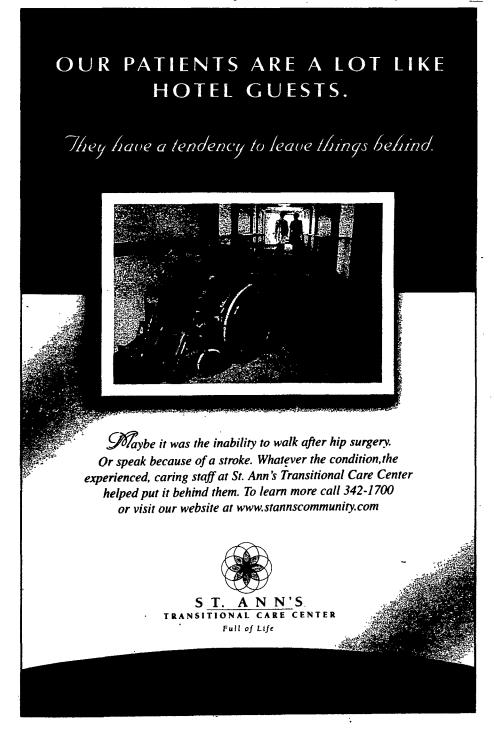
"You don't have a lot of time, so you have to be an extrovert who can work before the moment is gone," he said.

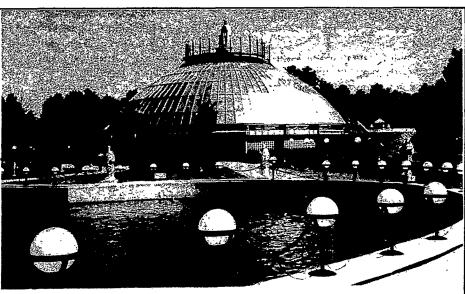
"Travel is a time in people's lives when the equilibrium is off, when they relax and open up a bit and they may make time for God that they might not normally make," Father Jamnicky said.

People are also more comfortable asking for the sacrament of reconciliation where they feel anonymous, he added. "They trust you because you are a minister of the church — it's a familiar role in a very unfamiliar place."

Prior to taking his post at the USCC, Father Jamnicky was chaplain at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago. Before that, the priest gained clinical pastoral experience as chaplain at Chicago's Cook County Jail and San Quentin Prison in California.

As national coordinator for mobility apostolates, Father Jamnicky is also in the process of evaluating and bolstering Catholic chaplaincies and outreach at airports, national parks, truck stops and for workers stationed at off-shore oil rigs.





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