

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Light of the risen Christ



David Wallace/Photo intern

(Above, clockwise from left) Nick Frank, 9, holds a candle lit from the Paschal Candle during the April 14 Easter Vigil at St. Paul's Church, Webster. Father David P. Simon baptizes Ryan Sand, 12, one of four elect baptized at the vigil. Art Quinn holds the Paschal Candle as Father Simon explains the rite of baptism.

## Training will help leaders advocate for poor

By Kathleen Schwar  
Assistant editor

In January the diocese trained parish leaders to preach about the death penalty and to advocate for a moratorium. By this fall, thanks to a similar training, parishes should be tackling a second Public Policy Committee priority: poverty.

Initial training for advocacy will take place Saturday, May 5, at St. Mary's Parish Center in Canandaigua. Addressing "Poverty in the Midst of Plenty: Challenges for the Catholic Community in the New Millennium" will be Sister Amata Miller, IHM, an economist and educator who is a visiting professor of economics at the College of St. Catherine in St. Paul, Minn., and Father Sebastian Falcone, a biblical studies professor at St. Bernard's Institute.

Father Falcone will speak on discipleship and economics in the early Christian communities, and how faith resources can address questions of economic justice today. Sister Miller will speak on the U.S. role in addressing global poverty, among other issues.

"In the parishes there is beginning to be a sense that families and individuals who work hard are struggling to make ends meet," said Kathleen Dubel, justice and peace director for Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier. She said much of the awareness comes through parish volunteers in emergency services programs. There is a need to understand that "a lot of people are really poor, even though the economy seems to be doing really well," she added.

The diocese, Catholic Charities, Sisters of Mercy and Sisters of St. Joseph are sponsoring the May 5 advocacy training.

"It really is wide open to anyone who'd like to come," Dubel said. However, parish social ministry leaders are especially encouraged, "because they tend to be key leaders in organizing any kind of advocacy."

The title of the day's training may sound familiar to Wayne County parishioners. St. Anne's Parish in Palmyra and St. Grego-

## PEOPLE & POVERTY

ry's Parish sponsored "Poverty in Palmyra?" and "Poverty in Marion" forums March 6 and March 29, respectively, to bring together community leaders and providers of services for the poor.

"The awareness, interest and expertise of these people was wonderful," said Denise Mack, pastoral associate of the Catholic Communities of St. Anne & St. Gregory. "And it was the first time they networked (all together)."

The gatherings were based on Matthew 25:31-46. "Along with people of other local churches we take very seriously the biblical imperatives to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit the prisoner," organizers stated in their flyer.

"It was really to raise a consciousness," said Blake Duffy, social ministry committee chairman for the cluster. "Poverty in Palmyra? As you peel back the onion, there is quite a bit. There are three types - physical, valueless and religious. We tried to address all three."

He said 200 agencies in Wayne County deal with problems related to those three areas, and at least 5-7 percent of the pop-

ulation live below the poverty line in each of the two towns, according to the 1990 census. Information from the 2000 census was not available yet, Duffy said.

"I was surprised at the percentage and also the actual numbers, no question," commented Palmyra Village Mayor Pete Wilson, a member of St. Anne's. "What also surprised me and opened up my eyes, was I didn't realize all the available support out there also. I don't think I was alone in that."

He said he would be moving soon to Massachusetts, to continue working for Staples, but the momentum created by the forum is something that he hoped future leadership would follow.

The forums brought together more than 40 people in each community, representing law enforcement, schools, medical, clerical, counselors, social work and other areas.

Duffy said two major problems the communities face are lack of transportation to agencies that can provide help, and lack of affordable housing. He hopes a satellite office can be established in each community to help people get to where they need to be.

He'd also like to have volunteer mentors work with families until they have the right benefits.

More information on the diocesan training, from 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. May 5, is available by calling 716/328-3210 or 1-800/388-7177, ext. 303.

## Obituary

### Sr. Carol Fox, RSM; age 67

A week before Sister Carol Fox, RSM, died, she led a retreat for children preparing for the sacrament of reconciliation at St. Christopher's Parish, North Chili. Father Robert F. O'Neill, pastor, recalled she "was running around with the kids" despite her illness.

"I'm sure she was in a great deal of pain for a very long time," he said. "But she was always upbeat."

Father O'Neill and the parish lost Sister Fox (formerly Sister Mary Eucharia), pastoral associate at St. Christopher's for the past 23 years, when she died April 9, 2001, after a long bout with cancer. She was 67.

Sister Carol grew up attending Holy Cross Church, Charlotte, and entered the Sisters of Mercy on Sept. 8, 1953. She professed her final vows Aug. 17, 1959.

For the first 16 years of her ministry, Sister Carol taught in schools at St. Andrew's, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, and St. John the Evangelist, all in Rochester; Our Lady of Mercy High School, Brighton; and St. John the Evangelist in Clyde.

In 1975, Bishop Joseph Hogan named Sister Carol to a pastoral team at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish that included Sister Regis Straughn, RSM, and Father Laurence C. Tracy. She went to St. Christopher's in 1977.

At St. Christopher's, Sister Carol met parishioner Chris McCabe through a parish sewing project. The two women became friends, and wound up sharing homes for the last 17 years. McCabe, an associate of the Sisters of Mercy, is also a charismatic minister and hospitality minister at the parish. As part of their Christian ministry, the two women regularly opened their home to people, from teens fleeing domestic trouble to women escaping abuse. Over several years, Sister Carol and McCabe hosted a total of 43 people who stayed from as short as one day to as long as four months.

McCabe added that Sister Carol "was pretty close to perfect" as a person.

"She was just always loving and caring and energetic," McCabe said. "She loved to work in the yard. She loved to camp. She was just a really good friend. She was most comfortable in informal situations. She just liked to be relaxed and make people feel relaxed."

Memorial donations may be sent to the Sisters of Mercy, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester, NY 14610; the American Cancer Society; St. Christopher's Church, P.O. Box 399, North Chili, NY 14514; or Genesee Street Campus of Unity Health System, 89 Genesee St., Rochester, NY 14611.

- Rob Cullivan

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