

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Activists voice concern over McVeigh execution

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

PITTSFORD — Some people would say that Marietta Jaeger-Lane had every reason to want the kidnapper-murderer of her 7-year-old daughter put to death.

Jaeger-Lane not only declined that option, she sought to forgive that young man. And for more than 25 years, Jaeger-Lane — who may have been ahead of her time in protesting the death penalty — remains staunchly opposed to this practice.

The Detroit native visited St. John Fisher College on April 19, six years to the day after the Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people. Jaeger-Lane's speech highlighted her own journey of forgiveness, as well as her opposition to Timothy McVeigh's scheduled execution on May 16.

In 1997 McVeigh was convicted of 11 federal crimes of conspiracy and murder for his role in the Oklahoma City tragedy. His death by lethal injection, at the U.S. Penitentiary in Terre Haute, Ind., would be the first federal execution in nearly 40 years. But Jaeger-Lane said this won't bring solace to the bombing victims' loved ones.

"They're left just as empty and dissatisfied and unfulfilled as they were before," she said.

A May 16 protest of McVeigh's execution has been planned by Clare Regan, a leader of the Rochester-based Reconciliation Network and Judicial Process Commission, two organizations that oppose the death penalty. The protest will take place from noon to 1 p.m. at Rochester's Wash-

ington Square Park (in front of St. Mary's Church). Regan has asked that people bring flowers, war toys and violent videos, as well as canned goods for charity, to decry violence and promote community.

In addition, the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse chapel will be open for prayer from 6 to 8 p.m. on May 15. The vigil is sponsored by the Rochester Sisters of St. Joseph and Sisters of Mercy.

It was through intense prayer, Jaeger-Lane said, that she found the ability to forgive the convicted killer of her daughter.

"People can't say to me 'You wouldn't feel that way if that was your little girl.' But it was," said Jaeger-Lane, 63.

In 1973, Jaeger-Lane and her family were on vacation at a Montana camping ground. By morning, Jaeger-Lane realized that one of her children, Susie, had been abducted right out of her tent. This experience, she said, is a grim reminder that terrible crimes can occur in what seems the safest of surroundings.

"It saddens me that we have to be so protective of children and curtail their freedom," Jaeger-Lane said.

For the next year, Jaeger-Lane did not know whether her daughter was dead or alive. A young man who claimed to have abducted her daughter contacted her a few times by phone, demanding ransom money. Jaeger-Lane said that she expressed compassion for the man in her talks with him, and he eventually broke down and left enough clues that police were able to locate and apprehend him.

Jaeger-Lane did not arrive at her feelings of forgiveness easily. Early on, she admitted wanting to "kill him with a smile on my face." But, describing herself as an "all or nothing" person, she realized she would have to be able to forgive completely.

"I knew the principles I was going to be held accountable to if I was going to live out my faith with any kind of integrity," she said. "I had 15 months to reflect on the death penalty, which I'd never done before. To kill somebody in Susie's name would be to violate and profane the goodness of her life."

"People came up to me and said 'I hope they fry that SOB' and it would have been easy to get caught up in that," she added. "But the more you start to pray for some-



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

## Budding Catholics

From right, second-graders Connor Johnson, Leah Lacure, Daniel Giordano, Danielle Richards and Michaela Perkins process into St. John the Evangelist Church in Greece May 5 to make their first Communion.

body, the more your heart gets changed."

For critics who might consider her stance soft, she remarked, "Forgiveness is hard work; it takes daily diligence and discipline. I'm telling you, it's not for wimps."

Jaeger-Lane eventually found out that her daughter had been killed on a remote Montana ranch, a week after being abducted. Her convicted killer received life imprisonment and later hanged himself in prison, Jaeger-Lane said.

In the ensuing years, Jaeger-Lane has devoted herself to speaking out against the death penalty. She claims that its use has killed innocent people and been costly, racist and ineffective in deterring crime.

"We ... are so sorry you have it in New

York state now," she told the gathering at St. John Fisher.

Jaeger-Lane, a Catholic, is a founding member of two national movements: Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation, and Journey of Hope ... From Violence to Healing. She is remarried and has four other children from her first marriage, as well as seven grandchildren.

Jaeger-Lane said her first husband "died an early death" because he never let go of his anger surrounding their daughter's death. The only way that victims' loved ones can heal, she said, is to forgive.

"They need to move on past that tragic event. They have to let go of that hate," she stated.

## Obituaries

### M. Maloney; devoted CYO worker

Martin E. "Mike" Maloney, a longtime athletics coordinator for Catholic Youth Organization in Rochester, died March 31, 2001, at Rochester's Blossom Nursing Home. He was 69.

Mr. Maloney was born and raised in Flushing, N.Y. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War, then served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. He earned numerous service decorations and, later in life, became commander of American Legion Liberty Post 1098.

After 16 years in the Air Force, Mr. Maloney settled in Rochester in the mid-1970s. He joined CYO in 1989, and quickly grew into his role as athletics coordinator. He oversaw scheduling for softball and soccer, as well as a 270-team basketball program.

"He did all the scheduling. He didn't use a computer; he devised a system by hand," said Ivan Matthews, CYO program manager for athletics.

Though Mr. Maloney was a part-time employee, he opted for a much more extensive involvement, Matthews said. In addition to scheduling, Mr. Maloney enjoyed attending numerous CYO games.

"He was a traveling man," Matthews said. "Mike made a point to see every team play at least once. He was especially proud of kids who played CYO ball and went on to play in high school and graduate."

"He became quite content at CYO. He was very devoted, sometimes to the point we didn't see him when we would have liked to (for family gatherings)," said Mr. Maloney's sister, Patricia Grace.

Though Mr. Maloney had advanced bone and lung cancer, Matthews noted, "He literally worked up to the final days. This was his life. It's an irreplaceable loss; he breathed and lived CYO."

Mr. Maloney's funeral Mass was celebrated April 4 at Rochester's St. John the Evangelist Church (Humboldt Street). Interment was at St. Mary's Cemetery in Waterloo.

Mr. Maloney is survived by his son, Martin; sister, Patricia (Paul) Grace; and nieces, nephews and cousins.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Mike Maloney Youth Basketball Fund, 4 Cedar View, Fairport, NY 14450.

— Mike Latona

### Sr. Margaret Lombardo, SSJ; teacher

Sister Margaret Lombardo, SSJ, a schoolteacher for 40 years, and a seamstress for 20, died April 13, 2001.

Sister Margaret (formerly Sister Frances Inez) was a native of Rochester and entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester from St. Bridget's Parish in 1931. She graduated from Nazareth Normal School and earned her bachelor's degree at Nazareth College.

Sister Margaret taught at the following schools: Holy Apostles, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Sacred Heart Cathedral, all in Rochester; St. Anthony's, Elmira; St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls; St. Aloysius, Auburn; and St. James, Waverly. Sister Mar-

garet also taught at St. Paul's in Oswego, and ran the bookstore at St. Agnes High School in Rochester for four years.

In 1977, she retired to the SSJ Motherhouse in Rochester, and served as a seamstress for Cornerstone Crafts for 20 years. Due to failing health, she moved to St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary in 1997.

Sister Margaret is survived by nieces, nephews, cousins and her sisters in the congregation. A funeral Mass was celebrated in the motherhouse chapel April 17.

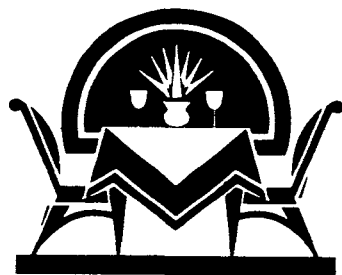
Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, 4085 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14618-3798.

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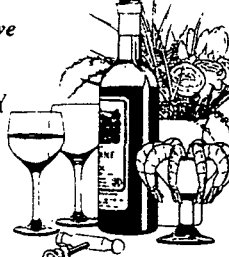
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