

DIOCESAN NEWS

Closing

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incurred during the flood of 1972, and the church needs a new heating system that would cost approximately \$90,000.

"It was the least healthy of the four sites," Sister Cawley commented.

Technically, St. Patrick's has already ceased to exist as a parish. St. Patrick's, along with St. Mary's, St. Vincent and Immaculate Heart, were officially suppressed in June when All Saints was created as a single parish with multiple worship sites. Prior to that, the four parishes were known as the Corning-Painted Post Roman Catholic Community, a cluster begun in 1990.

Sister Cawley noted that the recommendation to close St. Patrick's followed extensive vitality studies and consolidation of staff and resources by the four churches in recent years. "Our planning has been very thorough," she remarked.

She added that there are many positives to be gained out of this, saying, "We will have more vibrant liturgy, we will have fuller churches. I've been trying to get across to the people that the church is the people and not the buildings."

Even so, Sister Cawley acknowledged, this way of thinking may be difficult for

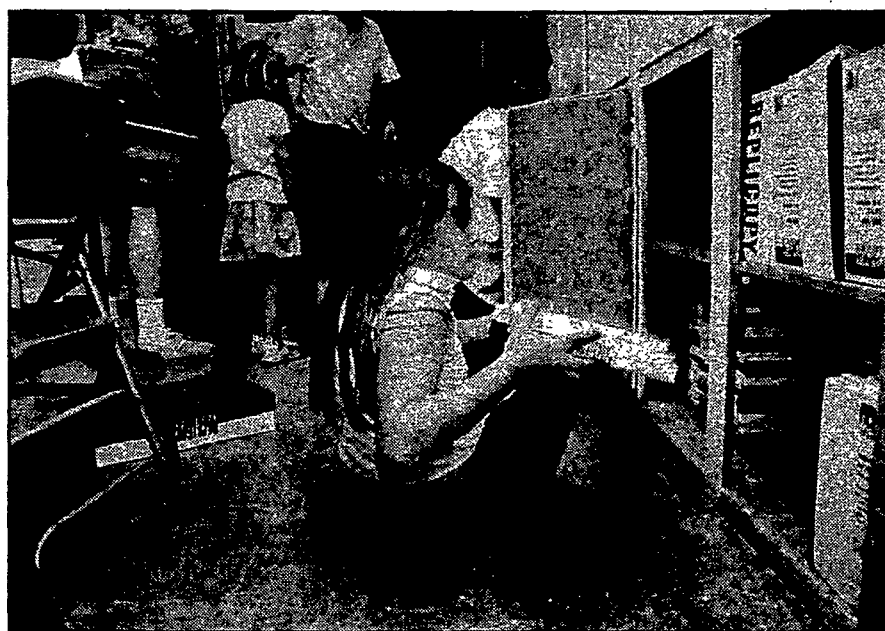
many of St. Patrick's faithful to digest. "Probably the next generation are going to be more adept at that. A lot of people here are longtime members," she said.

William Pickett, diocesan director of planning, noted that the model of a single parish with multiple worship sites is becoming more prevalent. For instance, he noted, six parishes in southern Cayuga County were suppressed in 1999 to form the Good Shepherd Catholic Community. All six of those worship sites remain open, however. In addition, the Tioga Region planning group plans to have its parishes suppressed in 2003 for the purpose of creating one parish with six worship sites.

The decision to close St. Patrick's Church would not affect All Saints Academy, for grades pre-K through one, that is located at St. Patrick's.

The church's community food pantry and health ministry would remain open as well, Sister Cawley said. She added that there are not yet any potential buyers for the church building.

The last church to close in the Diocese of Rochester was Rochester's St. Francis of Assisi in the summer of 2000. The last closing to take place in the Southern Tier came in 1998, when Elmira's St. Cecilia and St. John the Baptist ceased operation concurrently.



Karin von Voigtlander/Photo Intern

Family night

Christina Olgin, 8, of Church of the Epiphany in Sodus, stacks packs of paper for storage at St. Michael's School in Newark Aug. 8, on a night when parents and students gathered at the school to prepare for opening day. Kathy Peters, principal at St. Michael's School, scrubs bleachers at the school.



Parents urged to use Child Health Plus insurance

St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira is encouraging parents whose children are not covered by health insurance to enroll for the state's Child Health Plus program.

"Every summer, parents prepare their children for school by buying lunch boxes and supplies," stated Sister of St. Joseph Marie Castagnaro, hospital president/CEO, in a recent news release. "We want to make sure that getting health care coverage is a priority, too. Health care coverage helps parents keep kids healthy, and healthy kids are better prepared to learn."

The hospital will distribute Child Health Plus informational flyers to students and nurses' offices at local schools. Also, the Chemung County Department of Social Services Medicaid worker at St. Joseph's will continue

to interview hospital patients, obtain applications and determine their eligibility for Medicaid or Child Health Plus.

The efforts are part of a national drive to insure children called "Covering Kids," an initiative of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. According to the foundation, more than 9 million children are uninsured. And nearly 70 percent of parents whose children are uninsured worry frequently or almost all the time about whether they will have the money to pay for medical bills if the children are sick or injured. Students' insured status also can affect whether they participate in athletics, a foundation survey found.

Further information is available by calling Child Health Plus at 1-800-698-4543.

Obituaries

Sister Spohn; filled many roles

Sister of St. Joseph Ursuline Spohn died at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary Aug. 1, 2001. She was 93.

Sister Ursuline entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1945 from St. Anthony's Parish, Elmira. She earned her baccalaureate degree from Elmira College, with majors in sociology and French; and her master's degree from the University of Rochester, with a major in secondary education. She also studied at St. Bonaventure University.

Sister Ursuline taught at DeSales High School, Geneva, for five years. She was a guidance counselor at St. Monica, Rochester, and CCD coordinator at St. Francis Xavier, Rochester. In 1971 she

moved to Nazareth Academy, where she served as clerical assistant, secretary and librarian for 20 years.

In her retirement she was a volunteer at the Irondequoit Senior Center.

Sister Ursuline is survived by one sister, Sarah Olson of Palm Harbor, Fla., nieces and nephews, and her sisters in the congregation. Her wake and funeral Mass were conducted at the Sisters of St. Joseph motherhouse. Burial was in Ss. Peter and Paul's Cemetery, Elmira.

Contributions made be made in her memory to the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, 4199 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14618-3733.

Sister Creary; was teacher, librarian

Sister Joseph Edward Creary of the Sisters of St. Joseph, a retired teacher and librarian, died at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary on July 31, 2001. She was 86.

Sister Joseph Edward, a native of Penn Yan, entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1934. She earned her bachelor's degree from Nazareth College and her certification as a librarian from SUNY Geneseo.

She taught for 19 years in diocesan schools and for 24 years at Nazareth Academy, where she served as head librarian for 15 years. She retired to the infirmary in 1986.

Sister Joseph Edward was an ardent fan of the Brooklyn Dodgers and, later, of the Buffalo Bills. She never missed following the Bills' games and had an extensive collection of Bills' memorabilia.

Sister Joseph Edward is survived by nephews, cousins and her sisters in the congregation. Her funeral liturgy was celebrated at the motherhouse chapel on Aug. 2. Burial was in the sisters' section of Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, 4199 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14618-3733.

Sister Capaldi, 91; taught for 52 years

Sister of St. Joseph Mary Philip Capaldi, 91, a teacher in diocesan schools for 52 years, died on July 21, 2001.

Sister Philip entered the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1929 from St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Auburn. She graduated from Nazareth Normal School and earned a bachelor's degree from Nazareth College.

She taught at St. Francis Xavier, St. Stanislaus, Our Mother of Sorrows and St. Joseph's Villa, all in Rochester; St. Patrick, Mt. Morris; St. Francis de Sales, Geneva; St. John the Evangelist, Greece; St. John

the Evangelist, Spencerport; St. Michael, Penn Yan; and Ss. Peter and Paul, Elmira.

After retiring in 1982, Sister Philip volunteered in the STAR program. Due to failing health, she retired to the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary in 1994.

Sister Philip is survived by nieces and nephews and her sisters in the congregation. Her funeral Mass was celebrated in the motherhouse chapel.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, 4199 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14618-3733.

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