

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Ukrainian parish to mark 100th year on Sept. 30

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Ss. Peter and Paul Parish is celebrating 100 years of Ukrainian Catholic presence in Auburn with a centennial liturgy and banquet Sunday, Sept. 30.

The Divine Liturgy — the Eastern Rite equivalent of a Roman Catholic Mass — will begin at 11 a.m. at Ss. Peter and Paul Church, 138 Washington St. The altar will be graced by not one, but two diocesan bishops: Bishop Basil H. Losten, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford, Conn., and Bishop Matthew H. Clark, leader of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester.

Longtime parishioners Joann Regets and Jim Plis said they cannot recall any previous time that two bishops were together in their church. Regets said the centennial event was postponed from June so that Bishop Losten — whose diocese includes 54 Ukrainian Catholic parishes in five north-eastern states — could attend.

"We wouldn't have our 100th anniversary without our bishop here," Regets stated.

Regets said the parish is also looking forward to Bishop Clark's appearance, saying, "I'm glad he's coming. It's very good for our parish, as well as for both rites."

According to Regets, several priests and

staff members who formerly served Ss. Peter and Paul Parish are also expected to attend.

Abbot Joseph Homick, a graduate of Ss. Peter and Paul School, will serve as guest speaker for the centennial banquet that follows the Mass. Abbot Homick is a Byzantine monk who serves as head of Mount Tabor Monastery in Redwood Valley, Calif.

The banquet will take place at the Auburn Holiday Inn and include Ukrainian dancing for entertainment. Plis expects a total attendance of 350 to 375 people.

Ss. Peter and Paul Parish was founded in 1901 to accommodate a wave of immigrants from the Ukraine in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Plis said another large group of Ukrainian Catholics settled in the Auburn area after World War II.

Though the immigration rate has slowed in recent decades, Plis said parish membership has steadily held at approximately 250 families over the last seven years.

"We don't get a lot of new immigrant families in the parish; it's mostly second and third generation here," Plis said. "The Ukrainian parishes in Rochester have more of a European base and we're more American."

Even so, Plis said the parish's dedication to its Ukrainian Catholic roots is still strong. "We realize where we've come from, and we tend to hold the traditions," he

commented.

"People are very good, they really are. They're devoted to the church," Regets added.

Ss. Peter and Paul is one of four Ukrainian Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Stamford located in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester. The parish's pastor is Father Robert Batcho, who came to Ss. Peter and Paul in 2000.

On Aug. 26, as part of the centennial festivities, Ss. Peter and Paul held an open house of its church and school.

Under the leadership of Father Mihai Dubovici, pastor from 1995-2000, the parish conducted an extensive renovation to these buildings over a three-year period, financing \$100,000 toward such improvements as roof replacements, painting, gild-

ing, flooring and carpeting.

"To some extent, it was almost a restoration. A lot of money was spent on a lot of things, but they needed it," Plis added.

"There were a lot of cosmetics that really needed to be done. We're a small church, and it's a beautiful church," said Regets, who serves as secretary at Ss. Peter and Paul School.

The school, for grades kindergarten through 8, has operated continuously since 1941 and is another badge of pride for the Ss. Peter and Paul community. In fact, the Auburn parish is one of the few parishes in the Diocese of Stamford that still operates a school.

"The church backs the school," Plis commented.



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

### Blue Mass

Capt. Steve Wenderlich of the Elmira Correctional Facility takes the cup from Daryl Clark, a New York State trooper, at the eighth annual Blue Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Elmira Sept. 21. The Mass was said in honor of Rick Perfetti.

### Fr. Gerald Kelly; veterans' chaplain

Father Gerald G. Kelly, 93, died Sept. 12, 2001, at the Noreen McKeen Nursing Home in West Palm Beach, Fla., after a long illness.

A native of Bergen, he attended Nazareth Hall, and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. He served as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy from 1943-46, and as chaplain at the Veterans Medical Center in Canandaigua from 1948 until retiring in 1973.

Father Kelly was ordained in 1934 by then-Archbishop Edward Mooney. He served as assistant pastor at Immaculate Conception Church, Ithaca; Holy Rosary, Our Lady of Good Counsel and Blessed Sacrament churches, Rochester.

Upon his return from the navy, he served as assistant pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Elmira and of Holy Apostles, Rochester, before becoming chaplain at the medical center. He also helped at St. Mary's

Church, Canandaigua, and St. Catherine's Church, Mendon.

Betty Troy, who had known Father Kelly since 1938, was the priest's housekeeper. "He was always the gentleman," she said.

"Everything changes" was one of his favorite expressions. That would be a kind of word of advice he would give people."

He liked to play golf, and to travel, she said.

He has no surviving relations, Mrs. Troy said.

Father Kelly's funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 17 at Holy Spirit Church, Lantana, Fla. Bishop Matthew H. Clark will preside at a memorial Mass at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 6, in St. Mary's Church, Canandaigua. Msgr. William Roche, who is retired and lives in California, will give the homily. Burial will be in St. Brigid's Church Cemetery in Bergen.

— Kathleen Schwar

## Obituaries

### Fr. Nawrocki, OFM Conv, pastor

Father Xavier Nawrocki, 71, died Sept. 10, 2001, at Auburn Memorial Hospital. He was pastor of St. Hyacinth Parish in Auburn, and a member of the St. Anthony of Padua Province of the Order of Friars Minor Conventual.

Father Nawrocki was born in Niagara Falls and entered the order after graduating from St. Francis High School in Athol Springs, N.Y. He spent his novitiate year at Mt. St. Lawrence in Becket, Mass., and professed his first religious vows in 1949 and his solemn vows in 1952.

Arlene Nash, who cooked for Father Nawrocki, said he was an easy-going and outgoing pastor. "He was quite active with the youth, he would go to all their basketball games for the CYO," she said.

"He would go swimming every day. We made sure we got him out one way or another. He loved to swim. And he loved the ocean. ... He loved life, period. He was just beaming all the time."

Carol Ianiri, St. Hyacinth sacristan, noting their "gentle giant" pastor swam at the Auburn YMCA, said, "People who got to know him there loved him, too."

Father Nawrocki graduated from St. Bonaventure University in 1953 and completed his theology studies at St. Hyacinth Seminary in Granby, Mass.

He was ordained by the late Bishop Christopher Weldon on June 15, 1957, at St. Michael Cathedral, Springfield, Mass.

In 1960 he received a master's degree in education from Canisius College in Buffalo.

Father Nawrocki served 12 years at Bishop Ryan High School in Buffalo, Baker-Victory High School in Lackawanna and Kolbe High School in Bridgeport, Conn. He was principal of St. Francis High School in Athol Springs, 1969-79, and Archbishop Curley High School in Baltimore, 1982-85.

Father Nawrocki also spent nearly a quarter-century in parochial ministry, serving in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Connecticut, before coming to St. Hyacinth in 1997. He was preparing to move to St. John Vianney Parish in Lithia Springs, Ga., when he became ill in August.

He is survived by two sisters, Florence Franke of Boca Raton, Fla., and Christine Flanagan of Port St. Lucie, Fla., and nephews and nieces. His funeral liturgy was celebrated at St. Hyacinth on Sept. 13, and he was buried in Our Lady, Queen of Peace Cemetery in Royal Palm Beach, Fla.

Memorials may be made to the Franciscan Educational Burse, 12300 Folly Quarter Road, Ellicott City, MD 21042-1419.

— Kathleen Schwar

The Mental Health Association  
invites you to attend their  
**11th Annual  
Tribute Luncheon**  
in honor of  
**Dr. Katherine Keough**  
On Tuesday, October 16 at 12 o'clock  
Rochester Riverside Convention Center.



**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: B. THOMAS GOLISANO**  
For ticket information, please contact the  
**MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION**  
**325-3145**



### Sr. Mary S. Ryan, 87; Rochester native

Sister Mary S. Ryan, a Rochester native who entered the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany from Our Lady of Good Counsel, died Sept. 15, 2001, at Olean, N.Y., General Hospital. She was 87.

Born Catherine Elizabeth Ryan, Sister Ryan joined the Franciscan congregation in 1932 and professed her final vows Aug. 16, 1939.

She received her master's degree in education from St. Bonaventure University, and then taught from 1931 through 1950 in Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. She also was a principal and superior, and

supervisor for education for the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany from 1958-1968.

She returned to her education ministry until 1991. In 1994 she moved to St. Elizabeth Motherhouse in Allegany and volunteered at the switchboard.

Sister Ryan was predeceased by her parents, James Henry Ryan and Carolina W. Knopf; brothers Joseph, Robert, James and Mark; and a sister, Mary Munt. Her survivors include nieces, nephews and cousins.

A funeral Mass was held at the motherhouse Sept. 18. Interment was in St. Bonaventure Cemetery in Allegany.