

DIOCESAN NEWS

Catechists rely on assistance funded by appeal

EDITORS' NOTE: This is the first story in an occasional series on how the Thanks Giving Appeal benefits diocesan parishioners and parishes.

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Have you joined the Catholic Church in recent years; been married in a parish of the Diocese of Rochester; watched your child be baptized, confirmed or receive first Eucharist; or seen your teenager go off on a diocesan retreat?

If so, your life has been touched, directly or indirectly, by the diocese's Department of Evangelization and Catechesis, which is funded substantially by the Thanks Giving Appeal.

Maribeth Mancini, director of the department, noted that Catholics participating in any sort of religious education program benefit from her office's efforts to develop catechists and provide them with access to education resources.

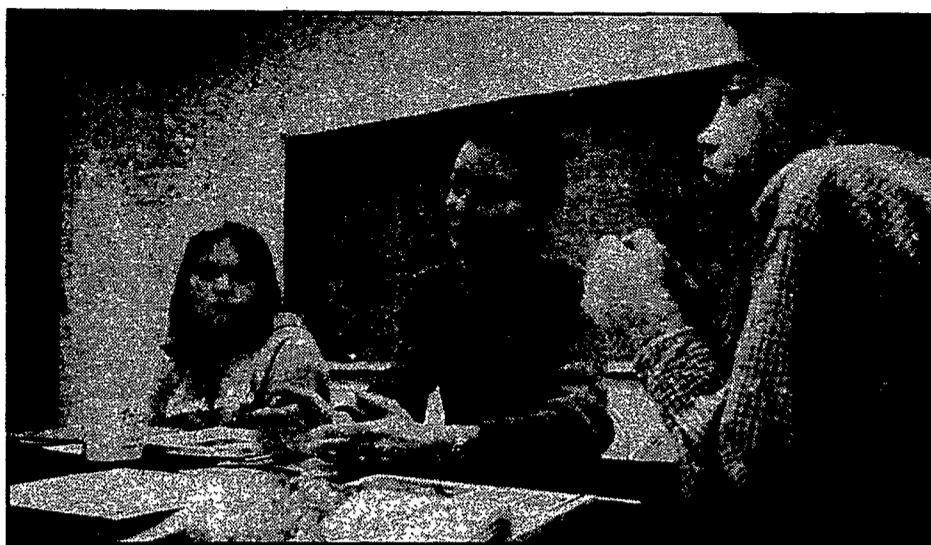
"We serve the people who serve the people in the pews," she said.

And it's the people in the pews, she noted, who will give her department the TGA dollars it will need for about half its 2001-02 budget. The remainder of her office's funding will come from such sources as fees and grants. For 2001-02, TGA funding for her department will amount to \$405,000, according to information from the diocese's Web site at www.dor.org.

"Basically, we couldn't exist without the TGA," she said, noting that TGA dollars support the salaries of her staff of 11.

The annual TGA is the diocese's primary fundraising drive, and this year's goal is \$4.931 million. Dan Healy, diocesan director of stewardship and development, said almost 14,000 pledges have been made to the TGA this year, on par with the previous year-to-date results. Already, \$1.3 million has been pledged or paid to the campaign, he said.

In Mancini's department, in addition to funding salaries, the TGA also helps fund training workshops and regular



Karin von Volgtlander/Photo intern

Theresa Scafetta teaches her fifth-grade religious education class Oct. 21 at St. Catherine of Siena in Mendon, where students include Caitlin Turner and John Tedesco. Catechists like Scafetta throughout the diocese benefit from TGA funds.

diocesan meetings for religious educators; ministry efforts for young adult Catholics and teenagers; publication of religious curriculum materials; and a host of other religious education supports such as the diocese's audio-visual lending library located at the Pastoral Center in Gates.

On that note, Mancini added that TGA funds are financing a current effort to place the diocese's entire catalog of videos on the Web.

TGA dollars also help her department bring in nationally known speakers for such events as Alive In Christ, a three-day catechetical formation institute that took place last March in three locations in Elmira and Pittsford.

Mancini added that TGA dollars enable her office to help low-income parishes participate in such activities as diocesan youth retreats that they might otherwise have to forego, she added.

Catechists at St. Catherine of Siena



Parish in Mendon give the department high grades for helping them learn how to better teach children about the Catholic faith.

Gaylene Sotak, who teaches first-graders at the parish, said she has benefited from catechist training workshops put on by the diocese.

"I have been impressed with the presenters of the programs ...," she said. "Basically, I've been learning that there are different learning styles that we all have. To reach all children, we need to under-

stand this so that we may make our classes fun and interesting."

Karen Zielinski teaches second-graders at the parish, and attended three workshops at the Alive In Christ event in March. The workshops covered the topics of the Eucharist, Scripture and sin. She said she enjoyed the variety of discussion and study topics, as well as the fellowship with other catechists at this and other TGA-funded diocesan events.

"From all the classes, I have always come away with new ideas, inspirations and hard copies of information," she said. "This in turn makes me a better teacher. I have an opportunity to improve my basic Catholic knowledge and also to deepen my faith as an individual, both of which will directly benefit ... the children that I have in my class."

Theresa Scafetta, who teaches fifth-graders on Sunday mornings at the parish, also complimented Mancini's department for its training workshops.

"I have become a more confident catechist because of the knowledge I have gained from classes like these," Scafetta said. "The caliber of instructors was excellent."

Mancini noted that her department is designed to continually strengthen the network of catechetical efforts throughout the diocese found in parishes like St. Catherine's.

"We're a communion of churches," she said of the diocese. "And that communion is reflected through the Pastoral Center. We're bound to each other in faith and love, and TGA dollars are a reflection of that."

Priest celebrates half-century as cleric in Franciscan order

Father Alphonsus Trabold, a native of Rochester, celebrated his 50th anniversary as a Franciscan priest Oct. 14, during the 11:30 a.m. Mass at Holy Ghost Church, Gates. He resides at St. Bonaventure University in Olean, where he taught for more than 40 years before recently retiring.

Father Trabold, 76, grew up in Rochester's St. Boniface Parish and was a graduate of St. Boniface School and Aquinas Institute. He entered the Franciscans in 1945 and was ordained a priest in the Franciscan Order of Friars Minor in 1951.

After six years as a high school and seminary teacher, he served from 1958-60 with the Franciscans in New York City. There, he assisted at parishes and also provided advice and counsel for area residents.

In 1960 Father Trabold arrived at St. Bonaventure, where he began his lengthy tenure as a professor of theology and parapsychology. He is an authority on exorcism and the occult.

"I've always been very curious about the unknown. If anything had a mystery to it, I'd like to find out answers. Even as a kid I'd started making serious study of it," Father Trabold said.

Parapsychology addresses such psychic phenomena as telepathy, extrasensory perception and clairvoyance. Father Trabold noted that for several of his students, these subjects were hard to mesh with religious beliefs.

"Many people did have difficulties with it," Father Trabold remarked, adding that he has sought to define "supernatural experiences of God, possible revelations and things of that nature, and to help people distinguish."

Father Trabold retired full-time from teaching in 2000 and continues to reside in the friary located at St. Bonaventure. He said he has remained active by teaching, lecturing, doing research work and providing parish assistance.

— Mike Latona

Obituaries

Sister Paul Marie Dougherty, SSJ, 78

Sister of St. Joseph Paul Marie Dougherty, SSJ, died Sept. 24, 2001, at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary. She was 78.

A native of Auburn, Sister Paul Marie entered the congregation in 1944 from her parish, St. Bernard's, in Scipio Center after she had graduated from the University of Rochester School of Nursing. She earned a baccalaureate degree from Empire State College and also became a certified Braille transcriber.

During her career as a nurse, she ministered at Good Samaritan Hospital, Selma, Ala.; St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira; and St. Joseph's Villa and the motherhouse infirmary in Rochester.

She assisted the blind by transcribing Braille for the past 12 years.

Her message to all was, "Do what you

do to the best of your ability and take responsibility for what you do," according to a congregational spokeswoman, who also said Sister Paul Marie had a "wonderful sense of humor and a sincere willingness to help others."

Father Bruce Ammering was principal celebrant, assisted by Msgr. Emmett Murphy, at Sister Paul Marie's funeral liturgy Sept. 28 at the motherhouse chapel.

Sister Paul Marie is survived by two sisters, Linette Slightam and Margaret Ann Dougherty; brothers Paul (Kathleen) and Edwin (Elsie); and her sisters in the congregation.

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

Sister Agnes Paula Shambo, SSJ, 93; teacher

Sister of St. Joseph Agnes Paula Shambo, 93, died at the St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, Oct. 1, 2001.

She entered the congregation from St. Aloysius Parish, Auburn, in 1928. For 62 years beginning in 1930, Sister Agnes Paula taught in diocesan schools including St. Michael, Penn Yan; St. Augustine, Rochester; St. Mary, Auburn; St. Stephen, Geneva; St. Patrick, Seneca Falls; and St. Mary, Waterloo.

She moved to the infirmary in 1992.

"Sister Agnes Paul was an inspiration to all who had the good fortune to know her," a congregational spokeswoman said.

"We remember her a strong religious woman. Her love of God permeated her being and overflowed in the life she so happily led."

Survivors include nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews, as well as sisters in the congregation.

Father Bruce Ammering served as principal celebrant, assisted by Msgr. Emmett Murphy, at her funeral liturgy Oct. 5 at the motherhouse chapel.

Contributions may be made in Sister Agnes Paul's memory to St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, 4199 East Ave., Rochester, NY 14618-3733.

The Notre Dame Alumni Club of Rochester welcomes a performance by:

The University of Notre Dame

Glee Club

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located at 1127 Dewey Avenue

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