

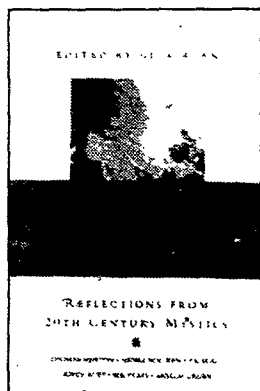
## FEATURE

## Local writers, voices may fill Christmas stockings

The literary and musical works of numerous individuals associated with the Diocese of Rochester are featured in offerings suitable for gift-giving this holiday season. Among them are:



*Silence on Fire*, by noted Merton scholar and Nazareth College professor emeritus



**Monsignor William H. Shannon**, is cited in a new book by freelance journalist Dick Ryan. *Straight From The Heart - Reflections from Twentieth-Century Mystics* (Crossroad) features reflections by such writers and spiritual commentators as Thomas Merton, Henri J.M. Nouwen, Sydney Callahan and C.S. Lewis, categorized under such headings as "Charity," "Justice" and "Mercy."

Ryan, whose work has appeared in such publications as the *New York Daily News*, *Our Sunday Visitor* and *St. Anthony Messenger*, cites the following passage from *Silence on Fire*: "Prayer without words is not so much expressing our dependence on God as experiencing it and being so overwhelmed by that experience that words become so inadequate that they are useless. Nor are they really needed. Silence alone is appropriate." *Straight From The Heart* is the type of easily accessible book that may lead its readers to just such moments of prayer.



Speaking of Merton, **Sister Monica Weis, SSJ**, the Rosemary A. White Professor in English and American Literature at

Nazareth College, is writing a book on Merton, tentatively titled *Dancing With the Raven: Merton's Evolving View of Nature*. The book is slated for completion by spring, 2003, when she ends her professorship. An English professor since 1974, Sister Weis said she got the idea for the book after reading all seven volumes of Merton's recently published journals. Merton, she said, "was on the cusp of making some prophetic statements about ecological responsibility."

"I find him riveting on the topic of contemplation and his cautions about the dangers of technology," she said.



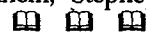
The 23-member **Contemporary Choir** at **Holy Rosary Church** in Rochester has released its first CD titled "My Lord," featuring 14 hymns ranging from spirituals to folk tunes. Selections include "Amazing Grace," "Rock My Soul," and "Were You There?" Digitally recorded by John Dady of the popular Irish- and folk-music duo, the



Dady Brothers, "My Lord" presents the choir under the direction of David J. Taylor, choir director for the last 11 years. The cover art includes a photograph of the Holy Rosary's stained glass window of Christ's Ascension, and was designed by Brenda Monahan. The CD is available at Logos Bookstore in Greece and Alpha & Omega Bookstores in Penfield for \$15. Already, about 175 copies of the CD have sold, Taylor said, and proceeds are going to Holy Rosary's general fund.



**Stella A. Stepney**, a 2000 graduate of Nazareth College's art therapy program, has landed a publishing deal for her master's thesis. The book, titled *Art Therapy With Students at Risk*, will be distributed by Charles C. Thomas Publisher Ltd. of Springfield, Ill., a leading publisher of books on education and the behavioral sciences. Stepney's book was inspired by her efforts to document the effects of an art-therapy program she devised for at-risk students in the Fairport school system during the 1999-2000 school year. Art therapy combines elements of psychoanalysis and art education to help unlock one's inner experiences. "In the hands of skilled practitioners, the application of (art therapy) techniques... can help students review their problems and the options they have for dealing with them," Stepney said.

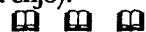


Earlier this year, **Tom Keegan**, a graduate of Bishop Kearney High School, Irondequoit, and a sports columnist for the *New*



*York Post*, coauthored a critically acclaimed book titled *Sleeper Cars and Flannel Uniforms* (Triumph Books). The book details the baseball career of Elden Auker, a major league pitcher in the 1930s, and one of the last men alive to have struck out Babe

Ruth. Auker's tales of baseball's glory years make for a fascinating read that any baseball fan would enjoy.



**Dr. Paddy S. Welles**, who spoke at a 1996 spirituality fair cosponsored by St. Louis and Transfiguration churches in Pittsford, has released the book *To Stand in Love - Untangling the Webs We Weave* (Geist & Russell). An Elmira-area marriage and family therapist, Welles explores how individuals learn to define love, and discusses how life teaches a person what love is and is not.



**Kathleen R. Urbanic**, archivist for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, has released an updated hardcover edition of her critically acclaimed 1991 book *Shoulder to Shoulder: Polish Americans in Rochester, N.Y.* A detailed and well-illustrated history of Rochester's Polish community, the new edition takes the reader through the 1990s. The expanded edition runs for 300 pages and contains more than 140 photographs, maps and original sketches. Its back cover features photos of Pope John Paul II and former Polish President Lech Walesa receiving copies of the book.

*Polish American Journal* gave the updated edition kudos with this comment:

"It is an excellent example of ethnic history that will grace many library shelves." Similarly, the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record said of the book: "(W)ould-be historians of other ethnic communities in New York State should be inspired to produce histories of the same high caliber."

The book costs \$25, and copies of it may be ordered by calling 716/323-2908, or by mailing payment to: *Shoulder to Shoulder*, 439 Brookview Drive, Rochester, NY 14617. Checks should be made payable to the Polonia Civic Centre, Inc. Please add \$2.50 for mailed orders.

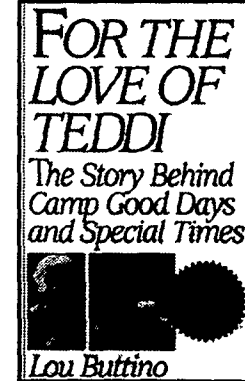


**Sister Barbara Staropoli, SSJ**, chairwoman of Nazareth College's Music Department, has edited a book of songs by renowned Italian composer and singer Francesca Caccini, who lived from 1587-1641. Caccini was the first woman to compose a full-length opera. Titled *Francesca Caccini: 10 Canzonettas* (Hildegard), the book is a collection of the Italian woman's canzonettas or "little songs." Sister Staropoli translated Caccini's archaic Italian into modern vernacular, and transcribed her music using modern notation. She was assisted in her transcribing efforts by Dr. J. William Greene, former director of the choir at Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester.

"I was attracted to the canzonettas because I thought they were approachable and attractive for singers who are interested in early music," said Sister Staropoli. "They are small pieces, and an audience can really enjoy the combination of text and music."



For the *Love of Teddi 2001 Edition*, by former St. John Fisher College Professor **Lou Buttino**, updates the past decade at



Camp Good Days and Special Times. The book revisits the story of Teddi Mervis, the 12-year-old girl who died of cancer and whose father, Gary Mervis, founded a camp that serves children and families affected by cancer, AIDS,

sickle cell anemia or violence. Included in the book's updated version are details about various new initiatives for women and against violence. An award-winning documentary filmmaker and author, Buttino is currently professor of communications at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. For information on obtaining the book, call Camp Good Days' Headquarters at 716/624-5555 or 800/785-2135.

-Rob Cullivan



A perfect holiday gift!

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A publication presented by The Diocese of Rochester and the Catholic Courier

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The book was hailed upon initial publication as "splendid," "a thorough, competent and most fascinating work" by "one of the best historical craftsmen of American Catholicism." Reissued now by popular demand, this new edition will be treasured by anyone interested in American Catholicism, Western New York history, immigration, parochial school education, or church-state relations - as well as by all who enjoy a lively narrative of sweeping proportion.

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