

DIOCESAN NEWS

Chrism Mass connects diocesan parishioners

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Assistant Editor

During Holy Week, people from parishes in the far corners of the Diocese of Rochester converge on Sacred Heart Cathedral for the annual Chrism Mass.

They come to Rochester in car pools and on buses from as far as Auburn, Elmira, Hammondsport and Bath to participate in the Mass, during which Bishop Matthew H. Clark blesses the oils that will be used in sacraments during the upcoming year.

"This is the only liturgy that is oriented to everybody," said Joan Workmaster, director of the diocesan Office of Liturgy. "It's one of those liturgies that really lifts you up and makes you feel good. People are excited by that."

Workmaster organizes the Mass, which is very music-oriented and involves people of all backgrounds and nationalities. She makes it a point to bring cultural diversity into the Mass by inviting participation by Catholics from the Vietnamese, African-American, Hispanic and other minority communities. And she attempts to get people from as many parishes as possible across the diocese to take part. To that end, she invites priests who serve as regional coordinators for the diocese to be eucharistic ministers.

Workmaster also incorporates a thread throughout the service that connects people. Last year there was a children's theme, and this year's theme was family—but not just the traditional family.

"Families can be many, many types of people," she pointed out.

For example, students from Becket Hall who are studying for the priesthood carried the cross and the incense during the service, and a Sister of Mercy and a Sister of St. Joseph served as acolytes. A traditional family was represented by the

Gibbins of Holy Cross Church in Charlotte. Deacon Edward Giblin served as deacon for the Mass, and his wife and children brought him the Gospel book so he could read from it during the liturgy. Single-parent families and blended families were also represented.

"We try to reach out to all areas of the diocese as much as possible," Workmaster said.

The Chrism Mass historically has been celebrated on the morning of Holy Thursday, which is today. Since so many people are involved in the Mass or touched by the oils blessed during the Mass, Workmaster said most dioceses currently schedule it for an evening early in Holy Week so as many people as possible can attend. The Chrism Mass at Sacred Heart this year took place Tuesday, March 26.

"It's become quite a diocesan celebration," Workmaster noted. "The cathedral is packed."

Bishop Clark blesses the oils after the homily, and at the end of the Mass, they are distributed to representatives of each diocesan parish for use in their respective churches.

The oils blessed are the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of the Catechumens and the Sacred Chrism, Workmaster said. The Oil of the Sick is used for the Anointing of the Sick; the Oil of the Catechumens is used for baptism; and the Sacred Chrism is used for the sacraments of confirmation and ordination. The type of oil used for the first two sacraments is olive oil; the oil used for confirmation and ordination is olive oil mixed with chrism, which is a scent, usually balsam. Before Bishop Clark blesses the Sacred Chrism, he mixes the oil and the scent together and breathes over it so the Holy Spirit will enter the oil.

"The Sacred Chrism is used at times



Andrea Dixon/ Staff Photographer

Bishop, DA discuss abuse

Bishop Matthew H. Clark met with Monroe County District Attorney Howard Relin March 25 to discuss how to work together to handle cases in which minors are sexually abused by clergy members. Relin said he is not interested in the diocese providing details regarding allegations beyond the statute of limitations, but wants to create a procedure for the future. Bishop Clark said the diocese wants to ensure the safety of the community and help victims heal, and it will continue to cooperate in any criminal investigations. Both agreed that care and concern for the victims of such crimes is the highest priority. Above, Bishop Clark greets Relin (left) and Chief Investigator Mark Kelley before their meeting.

that refer to scriptural text that has to do with being anointed priest, prophet and king," Workmaster said. "When we use it at confirmation and ordinations, it has a special significance."

The entire Chrism Mass has a special significance for Kathy Lipfert, pastoral minister at St. Mary's Parish in Auburn. Every year, Lipfert organizes a bus trip to the Chrism Mass so that parishioners of Auburn-area Catholic churches can attend.

"It's part of our Holy Week celebration," she said.

Lipfert enjoys attending the Chrism Mass because it is a chance to see Bishop Clark celebrate a Mass, and because it is

"culturally diverse and (has) all types of wonderful music."

She also feels honored to represent her parish and bring back the oils that St. Mary's will use for sacraments throughout the year.

"The experience brings us to the wider community, and being able to take part in the Chrism Mass has been very meaningful," Lipfert said.

Workmaster, too, gets a lot out of the Chrism Mass, even though she is so familiar with it.

"It's really a high point of the year for me," she said. "It's an exceptionally prayerful experience. It makes all the work worth it."

Mercy High School to build addition, increase financial assistance

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

In anticipation of its 75th anniversary in 2003, Our Lady of Mercy High School in Brighton has completed a \$6 million capital campaign that will finance construction of a new health and fitness center; an endowment for scholarships; and improvements in the school's science and technology programs.

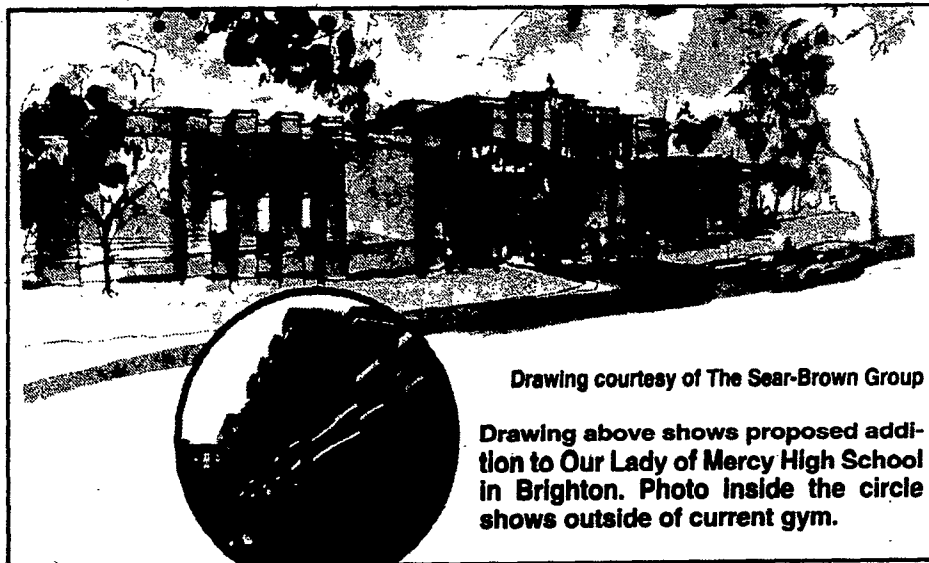
Although the school has reached its original \$6 million goal, the school is working to raise an additional \$1 million to cover anticipated construction cost overruns, school officials said.

Robert and Peggy Wegman of Wegmans Food Markets pushed the campaign over the top by making a \$1 million matching grant to the capital campaign in December. During 2001, the school met the Wegmans' challenge to raise \$1 million from its alumnae and supporters, Sister Carol Wulforst, school president, said.

"Words cannot adequately describe the emotion I felt when Bob and Peggy presented us with this unbelievable gift," Sister Wulforst said in a press statement. "Their gift will provide lasting benefits for Mercy students for generations to come."

Peggy Finigan Wegman is a 1946 graduate of Mercy. Other major donors include Charles R. Walgreen and Kathleen Bonsignore Walgreen, who gave \$1.5 million. Kathleen Walgreen is a 1961 graduate of Mercy, and chaired the alumnae campaign. About 1,100 donors have contributed to the campaign, Sister Wulforst said.

In an interview at her school office, Sis-



Drawing courtesy of The Sear-Brown Group

Drawing above shows proposed addition to Our Lady of Mercy High School in Brighton. Photo inside the circle shows outside of current gym.

ter Wulforst said the campaign will fund construction of a new health and fitness center that will be attached to the current school building, more than \$735,000 in improvements in the school's science and technology programs and a \$1.5 million endowment for scholarships.

She added that the Sisters of Mercy, who sponsor the school, wanted to increase the amount of financial assistance available by setting up the scholarship endowment. Currently, the school gives about \$250,000 a year in aid to 16 percent of the student body, she said. Tuition at Mercy's high school is \$5,850 per year, she said, adding that its seventh- and eighth-grade program costs \$5,100 a year.

The plans for the \$3.8 million center are currently being examined by the Town of Brighton, she said, which must approve the construction. She noted that the school hopes to break ground as soon as

possible, and would like to complete its construction by September, 2003. The center will be built as a two-story addition to the school, and will be located where a storage garage currently stands behind the school's parking lot. The center will also cover some land that is currently green space next to the campus grotto.

According to a capital campaign report, the center was proposed because Mercy lacks many of the physical education and athletic facilities it needs to accommodate its population of 580 students. Currently the school's basketball court is only half the regulation size, and the gym ceilings are not high enough for volleyball. Additionally, Mercy teams are unable to play many home games because of their gym's limited seating capacity. This comes at a time when 68 percent of the students compete in at least one sport.

According to the campaign report, ex-

panding the school's athletic facilities is more important than simply creating more room for young women to play games. Women's sports are becoming more important at the college level every day, the report noted.

"There is an increased amount of college scholarship money available, and Mercy must continue to prepare and develop its athletes to have a level of skill and ability to compete at the highest collegiate level possible," the report said.

The new center will have a gymnasium as well as a weight room. The addition will also have a second-floor library and media center. Sister Wulforst said the current library will be renovated to serve as a science laboratory with lecture rooms. Meanwhile, the school will keep its current gym for use by seventh- and eighth-graders.

Among the technology improvements the school wants to make is the creation of a school-wide computer network, and an increase in the number of computers in the classrooms.

Mercy also wants to renovate its science classrooms and purchase new equipment, the campaign report states. Some of this work already has been accomplished through funds donated earlier in the campaign.

Sister Wulforst said more and more girls are studying the sciences, and the school wants to be able to accommodate their needs. Currently, 68 students are taking advanced biology, she said, and 16 are studying advanced physics.

"We have lots of young women in the sciences, so this is a big thing at Mercy," she said. "I think a lot of women want to get into medicine."