

DIOCESAN NEWS

Ministry festival showcases sisters

By Jennifer Ficaglia
Assistant Editor

Nancy Hanna Williams of Irondequoit has been toying with the idea of arranging a reunion for fellow 1957 graduates of Holy Rosary School in Rochester.

Before she could do so, she wanted to find some of the Sisters of St. Joseph who taught her there. So when she learned there would be a "Where Is Sister?" table at the congregation's April 27 Festival of Ministries at Henrietta's Marketplace Mall, she made a point of attending.

"I am finding them," Williams said as she flipped through some information available at the table.

She learned that the former teachers she sought live at the sisters' St. Joseph Convent Infirmary, where Williams said she plans to visit them. If they are not well enough to attend a reunion, Williams said she hopes they will be able to write letters that would be shared during the event.

"It's definitely going to help me with this reunion," Williams said.

"Where Is Sister" was one of nearly 40 tables the Sisters of St. Joseph offered to the public during the Festival of Ministries, according to Sister Christine Wagner, who coordinated the event. The tables stretched down two wings of the mall, and provided information on such congregational ministries as St. Peter's Kitchen; the foster care homes Day Star and Morning Star; Sister Care, which helps elderly sisters; and the SSJ Spirituality Center. Also offered were musical performances by local Catholic-school children and a pictorial display showing various stages of construction on the congregation's new motherhouse, to be completed by January 2003.

Sister Wagner said the sisters, who have never promoted all of their ministries at such an event, were looking forward to participating in the Festival of Ministries to let people know about all the things they do.

"It is very exciting," Sister Wagner said. Sister Janice Morgan, congregational



James Stein/Photo Intern

Sister Sharon Bailey gives a massage to Nita Manzur during the Sisters of St. Joseph's April 27 Festival of Ministries at Marketplace Mall.

president, agreed.

"It certainly is a wonderful experience," she said.

The sisters not only experienced meeting people who were not familiar with all their ministries, but in some cases became reacquainted with people from their pasts.

Sister Morgan said, for example, that a man came up to her during the event and asked if she remembered him. She thought for a moment, then realized she had taught him in fourth grade at St. Agnes School in Avon.

"It was wonderful," Sister Morgan said. "He told me all about his family."

The festival was the last component in the congregation's five-year strategic plan, which had a goal of focusing the sisters' ministry and mission priorities, and the congregation's presence in the diocese, Sister Wagner said.

"We wanted to celebrate the ministries we're in," she said, adding that the congregation also wanted to counter media reports indicating that congregations of women religious are dying.

"We may be only 370 strong, but we are not dying," Sister Wagner pointed out. "We're vital and out there and serving a need."

The congregation also wanted to celebrate the many volunteers who help the Sisters of St. Joseph in their ministries, as well as encourage new volunteers to participate.

"We realize all the years we've been in the diocese we've never done this work alone," Sister Wagner noted.

Sister Wagner used herself as an example. As executive director of St. Joseph's Neighborhood Center in Rochester, which offers primary health care and mental

health care services to uninsured people, she uses volunteer help all the time.

"We wouldn't be here if it weren't for the volunteers who work with us," Sister Wagner said. "Everybody has a lot to offer. There is a place for everyone to do something and make a significant contribution."

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For more information about volunteer work for the Sisters of St. Joseph, contact the motherhouse at 585/421-8100 or visit the Web site www.ssjvolunteers.org. For information on helping organize the Holy Rosary School Class of 1957 reunion, call Nancy Hanna Williams at 585/544-5071.

Recognizing

★ **Conor Healy**, who represented St. Michael's School, Newark, took first place in the seventh- and eighth-grade oratorical contest at DeSales High School in Geneva on April 11. **Laura Mantelli**, who represented St. Mary's, Waterloo, took second place, and **Samantha Hess**, of St. Francis-St. Stephen, took third. **Shane Ruddy**, who represented St. Patrick's School, Seneca Falls, took first place in the fifth- and sixth-grade contest the same day. Second place was taken by **Marcus Belmore** of St. Mary's School, Canandaigua. **Lauren Post**, of St. Francis-St. Stephen School in Geneva, took third.

★ **Father Michael Volino**, parochial vicar at St. Lawrence Parish in Greece, was presented with the Pelican Award during the annual Catholic Scouters Recognition Dinner April 28 at Pittsford's Burgundy Basin Inn. Father Volino received this award — the highest the Catholic Scouters presents — for his chaplaincy of St. Lawrence's scout troop.

★ **Michele Diliberto** is the 2002 recipient of the OPPY Award presented by St. Joseph's Hospital in Elmira. The honor recognizes friendly service, courtesy and goodwill among patients, employees and the general public. Diliberto has worked at St. Joseph's for 27 years and is currently employed in the hospital's human resources department.

★ **Our Lady of Mercy High School**, Brighton, was represented by more than 60 students who traveled to Chicago to perform in a joint concert with Mother McAuley Liberal Arts School, a local school there. The trip took place March 23-27.

★ **Kevin Spence**, a McQuaid Jesuit senior, was recently named a 2002 Presidential Scholars Program Candidate. The honor is based on academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and community and school activities.

Agency to construct city housing

Providence Housing Development Corp., a not-for-profit affiliate of the Diocese of Rochester, is building 13 double houses with a total of 26 apartments for low-income people in the Brown Street and Fulton Avenue sections of Rochester.

The new apartments are called Near Westside, and will rent to families with income at or below 50 percent of the area median income of approximately \$27,450 for a family of four. Ground was broken April 3. The \$3 million housing project should be complete Oct. 1.

"These apartments will provide new, attractive housing to low-income families," said Maggie Bringewatt, executive director for Providence. "Decent, affordable housing is critical to the stability and well-being of each of us. It's also critical to the health of the neighborhood. We know that these new homes will help these neighborhoods in their revival."

All of the double houses have been designed to complement neighboring clapboard houses. They will have off-street parking, play space and green space. Each house will have a full basement with separate storage for tenants and washer/dryer hook-ups. The fully-insulated units are being built to high-efficiency standards to

minimize utility costs for the tenants. Bero Architecture PC designed Near Westside, which is being built by Atlas Builders.

Local associations, Fulton Avenue Renewal and Neighborhood United, have advocated for new residential development in the area for years, and cooperated with Providence, the city of Rochester, Monroe County, New York state, Lake Avenue Baptist Church and The Enterprise Social Investment Corp. to establish Near Westside.

PRIDE house, a county-funded community center, Fulton Avenue Renewal and Neighborhood United will cooperate in marketing the apartments.

Correction

A story on page three of the April 25 *Catholic Courier* incorrectly identified the pastoral appointment of Father Stephen Lape. Father Lape has been appointed parochial vicar of St. Mary, Auburn, and is currently priest intern at Church of the Good Shepherd, Henrietta, with concurrent duties as sacramental minister at St. Joseph, Rush.

Coming next week:

Bishop Matthew H. Clark has issued to all diocesan pastors and pastoral administrators a set of norms on liturgical preaching

The new guidelines were released April 24. They cite canon law and other church teachings in outlining who may preach during Mass and at other services; specify in what instances certain types of preachers are appropriate; and set forth the desired skills, background and experience for preachers. The norms also state who, according to church law, may read the Gospel.

The norms will take effect July 1. Workshops to assist people in interpreting the norms were to be held April 30 at St. Mary Our Mother Church in Horseheads, and May 1 at St. Bernard's School of Theology and Ministry in Rochester.

The *Courier* will provide detailed coverage of these norms in its May 9 issue.

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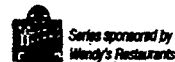
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