

DIOCESAN NEWS

Conference to explore home-school relations

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Exploring the interaction between families and Catholic schools will be the focus of the 13th annual Institute on Catholic Education in the Wilson Commons at the University of Rochester on Monday, July 8, and Tuesday, July 9.

About 100 educators — including teachers, catechists, superintendents and administrators from various states — are expected to attend the conference, according to Mercy Sister Edwardine Weaver, director of the Catholic School Administrators Program at the UR's Margaret Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development. Sister Weaver said this year's theme highlights the growing challenges schools face in educating children from a variety of family backgrounds, including single-parent homes, low-income households and abusive situations.

The institute kicks off July 8 with a 9:15 a.m. keynote speech by Father Michael J. Garanzini, newly appointed president of Loyola University in Chicago. The Jesuit priest and former psychology professor is the author of several articles on child and family development, and has written two books: *The Attachment Cycle and Child-Centered Schools: An Educator's Guide to Family Dysfunction*.

Father Garanzini will speak on "Positive Navigation of Personnel and Family Issues," and he will propose a model for working through personnel and family issues that disrupt and divide school and diocesan settings.

The keynote speaker on Tuesday, July 9, is John J. Findlater, an educational consultant from Michigan who has served as principal in schools of the Archdiocese of De-

troit. Findlater also founded and developed an inner-city Catholic school in Detroit. He will speak about "The Home and School Connection: What Kind of Kids Are We Raising Anyway?" Among the questions he will address are whether Catholic school students are different from other students and how cultural shifts affect children.

The institute also will feature several small-group sessions, including one hosted by Patrick B. Fox, director of faith formation at Penfield's St. Joseph's Parish and former diocesan director of youth ministry. Fox will host a small group on "Enriching the Tapestry of Family and School," in which participants will discuss how schools and households can work together to increase faith development and educational progress.

"The nuclear family and the school family allows for an energy that can complement each other," Fox said. He added that the family is the primary place of learning for children, and that teachers need to "enable the nuclear family, not substitute for it."

Other small-group sessions will explore narcissistic parents and families; nurturing schools and parents; reaching out to children in crisis; stress management for educators; faith in the classroom; and the effects of economic class on working relationships between educators and students and their families.

Sister Weaver said the institute also is designed to help educators recognize how much a disruptive family life can affect a child's learning. For example, she said, children who have just learned that their parents are getting divorced may become withdrawn, inattentive and possibly even suicidal.

Warning signs that a child may be suf-



Karin von Voigtlander/Staff photographer

Bible school creations

St. Louis Parish of Pittsford and St. Bridget Parish of Rochester joined forces to offer a Vacation Bible School June 30 through July 3. The program, open to children from age 3 to fifth grade, took place at St. Louis Church. Above, kindergartners and first graders reach for scraps of paper July 1 during arts and crafts time. At right, kindergartener Latierre Stevenson of St. Bridget's fashions a cross from pieces of tissue paper.



Recognizing

*Deacon Philip H. Yawman of St. Andrew's and St. Philip Neri parishes in Rochester received the University of Notre Dame Award of the Year on May 4. The award recognized the Fairport resident for his professional achievement, self-giving to the community, dedication to the church and moral, responsible leadership. The deacon is a graduate of McQuaid Jesuit High School in Rochester, and is executive director of Threshold Center for Alternative Youth Services Inc., which provides health, education and counseling services to adolescents.

*Diocesan Catholics gave more than \$64,400 to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops' anti-poverty agency, through CCHD's 2001 collection in diocesan parishes. The amount represents an increase of 13 percent above diocesan Catholics' donations to CCHD in 2000.

*Michael G. Hoppy, who recently finished his junior year at Geneva's DeSales High School, was named one of three Ontario County Youths of the Year. Hoppy has served as vice president of Key Club and has been involved with the United Way Day of Caring, the 30-Hour Famine, Happiness House and the Interact Club. He has also been named to "Who's Who Among American High School Students." Three other DeSales students — Grace Lynch, who finished her sophomore year; Mary Buckley, who finished her junior year; and recent graduate Shelley Amberg received nominations for the award.

*Catholic Charities of Livingston County recently received a \$5,000 state grant, which will be used to help fund the agency's Hispanic Outreach program. The program helps people overcome cultural and language barriers and supports the county's Hispanic and Latino communities.

Obituaries

Sister Mary Elizabeth Wentworth, SSND, 75

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Sister Mary Elizabeth Wentworth, formerly Sister Mary Jogues, SSND, died on May 12, 2002, in Wilton, Conn. The Rochester native taught in several diocesan elementary schools, and was 75.

Sister Mary grew up attending St. Michael's Church in Rochester, and entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame in Baltimore, Md., in 1951. She professed her permanent vows in July of 1960.

A graduate of Seton Hall University, from 1955 to 1959, Sister Mary taught in Catholic schools in Maryland and New

Jersey. From 1959 to 1960, she taught at Holy Redeemer School in Rochester. She then went to teach at St. Peter and Paul School in Rochester until 1969. She taught for one year at St. Michael's School in Rochester before moving back to Holy Redeemer in 1970.

From 1971 to 1976, she served on the administrative staff at St. Boniface School in Rochester. There she met Sister Lorraine Burns, SSND, currently principal of Holy Family School, Rochester. Sister Burns served as principal of St. Boniface from 1968-73.

"She was a jokester," Sister Burns recalled of Sister Mary. "She was a wonder-

ful person, very easy to get along with."

Sister Burns recalled that Sister Mary also did pastoral work with the elderly while in Rochester, primarily at St. John's Home.

"She loved working with the elderly there and bringing them communion," Sister Burns said.

From 1976-80, Sister Mary served on the parish staff at St. Boniface Parish before moving to Sunbury, Pa., where she also did parish work and served the elderly and sick. From 1987-1993, Sister Mary served as pastoral care worker at Lourdes Health Care Center in Wilton before retiring. In a brief autobiography, she wrote that she found her calling when she worked with the sick and the elderly.

"It was a very fulfilling and rewarding ministry," she wrote, adding: "I had a great sense of compassion, and they trusted me."

Sister Mary had multiple sclerosis, which forced her to retire from her pastoral work. She was a fundraiser, organizer and advocate for the Multiple Sclerosis Society in Connecticut. In 1994, the society gave her its Georgina B. Davids award in recognition of her service.

Sister Mary is survived by three sisters, all of Rochester: Cecilia (William) Jeffers; Helen (Howard) Prentice; and Genevieve (Raymond) Szydowski; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was celebrated in her congregation's provincial motherhouse chapel in Wilton on May 15.

Sister Stimson; taught at Keuka

Dominican Sister Miriam Stimson, a former chemistry professor at Keuka College, died June 15, 2002, at the Dominican Life Center in Adrian, Mich. She was 88 years old and in the 67th year of her religious profession in the Adrian Dominican Congregation.

Sister Miriam was a native of Chicago. She received her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Siena Heights University in Adrian, and went on to earn a master's degree in chemistry and a doctorate in philosophy from Institutum Divi Thomae in Cincinnati.

She taught at Siena Heights University from 1939 to 1969, and in 1969 was in-

ternationally recognized for her research in spectroscopy — the study of the interactions between radiant energy and matter — at Florida State University.

From 1969 to 1978 she served in the Rochester Diocese as a professor at Keuka College, and was also the chemistry departmental chair. She returned to Siena Heights University in 1978 and was director of graduate studies until 1991. She continued on as professor emerita/adjunct at the university until this year.

Sister Miriam is survived by a sister, Catharine Dymond.

—Mike Latona