

Service gets focus

Works of Love holds second-year kickoff

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

Ruth Putnam finds it's getting tougher to track Works of Love projects in the diocese, saying, "I don't know everything that's happening."

It's not that Putnam, the program's coordinator, is disorganized. Rather, Works of Love was so successful last fall that its influence has spread from parishes into the general community.

Works of Love, an initiative of diocesan Catholic Charities, promotes the social mission of the church through service projects and reinforcement of church teachings. The second-year program held its kickoff weekend Sept. 28-29 with commissioning and blessing of participants at parishes throughout the Rochester Diocese. These festivities came on the heels of a visit to the diocese Sept. 23-24 by Father Bryan Hehir, president of Catholic Charities USA (see related story on page 5).

Works of Love events will run throughout October. According to Putnam, this year's theme, Celebrate Life!, focuses on the life and dignity of the human person.

Last fall's inaugural effort involved more than 7,000 participants

in such activities as volunteering at senior-citizen centers and soup kitchens; cleaning up neighborhoods; collecting clothes and supplies for the poor; and assisting women who face crisis pregnancies. Works of Love projects have supported community-based activities such as Crop Walk and organizations such as the Salvation Army.

Projects are mostly geared toward children in diocesan Catholic schools, as well as participants in parish faith-formation programs and youth groups. However, Putnam said, many adults have gotten into the act as well, especially members of parish social-ministry committees.

Putnam noted that Works of Love has evolved into a year-round program, and that she's hoping to organize special events this winter to connect with Valentine's Day and Lent. In addition, her office will regularly furnish suggested bulletin inserts about Catholic social teaching.

"We make it very clear that Works of Love isn't just a service project," Putnam said. "Works of Love has, behind it, why we do what we do." Through this extra awareness, she said, people will hopefully make profound changes in their own lives: "Even Jesus was transformed by the people he met in the world."



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

Zoo party

Last year, students from St. Michael's School in Penn Yan adopted a bush baby that lives at Rochester's Seneca Park Zoo. On Sept. 23 they were invited to the zoo for a special Zoo Parent Party. Above, volunteer educator Mary Rose Bianchi shows a milk snake to kindergartener Mary Kate Killen and her father, Patrick. At right is Junior, the bush baby adopted by the students.



**Father Albert Shamon's
column, A Word for Sunday,
will return next week.**

DAILY READINGS

Monday, October 7

Galatians 1:6-12; Psalms 111:1-2, 7-10; Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday, October 8

Galatians 1:13-24; Psalms 139:1-3, 13-15; Luke 10:38-42

Wednesday, October 9

Galatians 2:1-2, 7-14; Psalms 117:1-2; Luke 11:1-4

Thursday, October 10

Galatians 3:1-5; (Ps) Luke 1:69-75; Luke 11:5-13

Friday, October 11

Galatians 3:7-14; Psalms 111:1-6; Luke 11:15-26

Saturday, October 12

Galatians 3:22-29; Psalms 105:2-7; Luke 11:27-28

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BIGGEST

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Kids' Chronicle

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