

# CFC gala set to honor Augustines

Catholic Family Center in Rochester will present its 2003 CFC Award to Matt Augustine and posthumously to his wife, Rita, at its St. Patrick's Day Gala on Friday, March 14, at the Hyatt Regency Rochester.

Rita Augustine was CFC's executive vice president and chief operating officer at the time of her death on March 28, 2002. Mrs. Augustine was also active in several community organizations and institutions including the Girl Scouts of Genesee Valley, Strong Museum, St. John Fisher College, the State University of New York at Brockport Foundation, the African-American Leadership Development Program and the



Women's Foundation.

Carolyn Portanova, CFC's president and chief executive officer, praised Mrs. Augustine for her work.

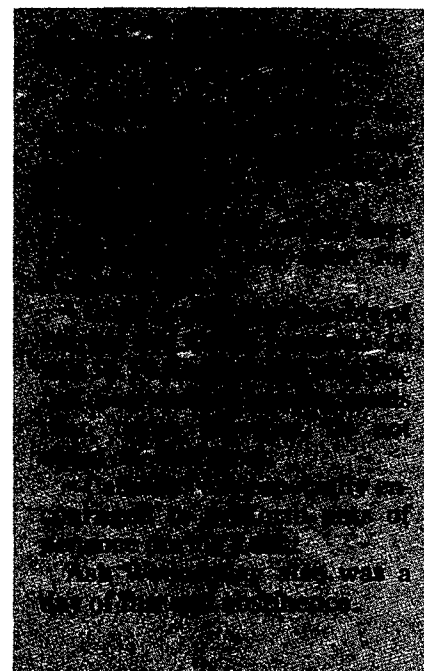
"Rita was a champion of our clients and truly believed in the potential of each and every individual," Portanova said. "Rita cared deeply for a better Rochester, where people would live harmoniously, children

would no longer live in poverty, and youth would be better educated to succeed."

Mrs. Augustine's husband, Matt, is a member of the Rochester Business Hall of Fame, president and CEO of Eltrex Industries and works with several community groups.

The gala will begin with a cocktail hour at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. For information on tickets and meal selections, call 585/262-7172. Bishop Matthew H. Clark has granted a dispensation from the Lenten meat-abstinence observance during the gala. Proceeds from the gala will support CFC's programs and services.

— Rob Cullivan



## Labor-religion coalition calls for 40-hour fast

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

The New York State Labor-Religion Coalition is asking citizens to participate in a 40-hour fast on behalf of migrant workers and other low-paid workers from March 12-14.

Fast participants are asked to abstain from solid foods for 40 hours, or at least one meal.

The fast's theme is "Replacing Greed With Justice," and is designed to call attention to the growing gap between rich and poor in the state, according to coalition statements. In part, the coalition wants farm workers to have the right to bargain collectively; to overtime pay; to a mandatory day of rest; and to coverage by the state's occupa-

tional health and safety laws.

—Marv Mich, director of social policy and research for Catholic Family Center and a coalition member, said Catholics should consider participating in the fast.

"The fast helps us to focus, especially as we think about who brings food to our table," Mich said of farm workers.

In addition to advocating for farm workers, the coalition supports an increase in the minimum wage; an end to sweatshop labor; and a restructuring of state and federal tax codes, which it claims puts heavy burdens on workers in general.

"The past 30 years has seen an astonishing concentration of income and wealth in just a few hands," the coalition stated. "This vast increase

in inequality between the top and the bottom is a key reason that the (United States), for all its economic achievements, has more poverty and lower life expectancy than any other major advanced nation."

The fast will be marked by events throughout the Diocese of Rochester, including:

### Rochester:

On Wednesday, March 12, Maria Teller, coordinator of the Farmworker's Women's Institute, will speak at Lake Avenue Baptist Church, 70 Ambrose St., at 6 p.m. A vegetarian meal will be served before the fast begins.

A closing meal and ceremony will be held at the local headquarters of Service Employees International Union, 225 W. Broad St., Suite B, at

noon on Friday, March 14.

Donations will be accepted at both events for the coalition's anti-sweatshop educational campaign, and to benefit efforts to advocate for Monroe County workers.

For both events, RSVP by calling 585/262-7021 or 585/262-7167.

### Brockport:

On March 12, a pre-fast potluck dinner will take place at 6 p.m. at United Methodist Church, 92 Main St., followed by a service. On March 14, the fast will end with a soup and bread luncheon and closing prayers at the Newman Catholic Center, 101 Kenyon St.

For information, call 585/637-7504.

### Ithaca:

For information on fast events, call 607/272-5062, ext. 12.

### GENERAL

#### Announcements

**ADOPTIONS** The Catholic Courier does not publish adoption advertising. To obtain a list of agencies that serve birth mothers and adoptive parents, call 585-529-9530. Agencies wishing to be included on this list may send information to the Catholic Courier.

### EMPLOYMENT

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Send resume with cover letter by March 24th to: Executive Search Committee, Kinship Family and Youth Services 2 Bethesda Drive, Suite 10 Hornell, NY 14843

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