



Rebecca Gosselin/Catholic Courier

## Table of bounty

Diana Gugino, an 11-year-old Junior Girl Scout and parishioner at St. Mary of the Lake in Ontario, prepares a St. Joseph Table Sunday, March 16, to share with friends from church and fulfill a scouting project that has been in the works for more than a month. Italians traditionally prepare such tables of meatless dishes in honor of St. Joseph, whose feast day is March 19.



## Catholic School Board Seeking Additional Members

Are you committed to Catholic schools?

Do you have expertise in marketing, finance, facilities management, development or Catholic education?

Are you willing to share your time and talent in order to make our schools even stronger?

The Catholic School Board of Monroe County is seeking applicants for board membership. New members join the board after July 1, 2003.

If you are interested, please call the Catholic School Office 328-3228 ext. 1294 for an application. Applications are due before May 1, 2003.

# Relationship loss topic of gathering

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

Adults who are affected by separation, divorce or death are invited to attend the HOPE 2003 Conference. The all-day gathering will take place Saturday, March 29, at Guardian Angels Church, 2061 E. Henrietta Road, Henrietta.

Events will include presentations and workshops in the morning and afternoon; a 4:30 p.m. parish Mass to be celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark; and an optional dinner and dance.

The morning program will feature a keynote address by Dr. Dennis Boike, a Rochester-area marriage and family therapist who will speak on "How Positive Thinking Affects Physical and Emotional Health." Keynoting the afternoon session will be Deacon Dean Condon, pastoral administrator of Guardian Angels Parish, whose talk is titled "Building Hope."

Workshops will address such topics as feelings associated with loss; the effect of loss on teens and young adults; self-reflection before entering new relationships; and self-esteem issues.

The conference's theme is "Growing in Life." Peggy Cunningham, organizer, noted that a butterfly symbol is being employed to illustrate that humans are capable of "rising to a wonderful new life" in the same way a caterpillar changes into a butterfly, she said.

Meanwhile, HOPE 2003's mission statement reads: "During life's transitions, we sometimes lose

hope. We often neglect to rejoice in how our past has shaped us, to celebrate the wonders of the present, and to look with joy towards the future. Our desire is to hold a conference which offers us hope and, for one day, a path of guidance to follow as we renew our spirit."

This marks the fourth-annual HOPE Conference. It was presented at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Greece in 2000, and has taken place at Guardian Angels ever since.

"Anyone who's come has benefited. It addresses a varied amount of needs, whether they're in the initial stages of loss or some who are in the process of moving on. It can be a painful process, trying to find the positive," said Cunningham, who operates the conference along with her husband, Deacon John Cunningham. The Cunninghams also are among facilitators of Hope and Healing, an outreach for people who have experienced loss. That group meets monthly at St. Christopher Church in North Chili, where Deacon Cunningham serves.

Peggy Cunningham observed that holding the HOPE Conference in a parish setting reflects the Catholic Church's support for people who have been through divorce and separation. "The church doesn't reject them," she said.

To register for the HOPE 2003 Conference, contact Peggy or Deacon John Cunningham at 585/293-3337, or send e-mail to [peggycunningham@yahoo.com](mailto:peggycunningham@yahoo.com)

## Justice reserves decision

A state Supreme Court justice has reserved ruling on the Diocese of Rochester's request to dismiss a sexual-abuse lawsuit related to allegations about Robert O'Neill, a retired diocesan priest.

On March 13 in Rochester, Justice Robert Lunn asked attorneys for both sides in the case to submit more legal arguments for his review in the next few weeks. Paul J. Yesawich III, the attorney representing the diocese, said the judge particularly wants to examine church-state issues surrounding the case, and whether it belongs in a civil court.

The lawsuit claims that the alleged acts of sexual misconduct by

O'Neill took place in the 1970s and 1980s, when all of the plaintiffs were minors. On Dec. 12, 2002, Lunn dismissed the case against O'Neill, citing the fact that the statute of limitations had run out. However, the same suit is still pending against the diocese, which was named as a codefendant.

Yesawich said the judge is expected to issue a written decision in the case, and that no new court date has been set.

O'Neill retired in 2001. Bishop Matthew H. Clark removed him from all ministry on May 2, 2002, due to allegations that O'Neill had committed sexual abuse in the past.

— Rob Cullivan

SE

Continued on page 89  
that Pedestrians participate in other business

In a School age of cent cruit teach

Bas lengther the But P is inst as car

"Or to the and c addin tree parisl stay t she p

Ped cese r ly in parish In t requi throug ology certifi grams Berna althou are o

have 1 ment.

Lipp ing cl even t their n he per toral a explai

