

# Father B. Carges; Tompkins pastor

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

Father Bernard L. Carges, a Tompkins County pastor for more than a quarter-century, died suddenly April 21, 2003, at St. Anthony's Church in Groton, where he was assisting in retirement. He was 68 years old and had just retired from full-time priestly duty 10 months ago.

Father Carges was a Rochester native who attended Holy Rosary School, St. Andrew's Seminary and St. Bernard's Seminary. He was ordained in 1960 by Bishop James E. Kearney.

He served as assistant pastor at St. Stephen's, Geneva, from 1960-65 and then as chaplain at Irondequoit's Bishop Kearney High School from 1965-68. Father Carges went on to assist at St. Alphonsus Parish, Auburn (1968-72); Sacred Heart Cathedral (1972-74); and Our Lady of Lourdes, Brighton (1974-75).

His first pastorate came in November 1975, and it was a long one: He led Ithaca's Immaculate Conception Parish for 22 years.

"He had a great love for the parish and the parish had a great love for him. He was a very kind, gentle per-

son; I consider him a very dear friend," said Mercy Sister Elise Quigley, who served as pastoral associate under Father Carges for many years and is now the secretary-receptionist at Immaculate Conception.

Sister Quigley added that Father Carges was "a very strong advocate of Catholic education" and worked hard to strengthen Immaculate Conception School, which is the only Catholic school in Tompkins County. In addition, Sister Quigley said, Father Carges enjoyed leading tours to Ireland during his pastorate in Ithaca.

Father Carges noted his love for Immaculate Conception Parish in a 2002 *Catholic Courier* article, saying that in 1997 he took the pastorate of St. Anthony's in Groton, in part, so he could remain near Ithaca. He added the pastorate of Holy Cross in Dryden in 1998. St. Anthony's and Holy Cross also are located in Tompkins County, north of Ithaca.

Health problems in recent years had led Father Carges to retire in



File photo

Father Bernard Carges stands in the chapel at St. Anthony's Church in Groton on June 21, 2002.

June 2002. At that point he moved to his cottage on southern Cayuga Lake, yet he assisted often at St. Anthony's Church and even moved back to the rectory for the winter. According to Pam Senter, secretary/business manager of St. Anthony's, Father Carges had been looking forward in recent days to returning to his cottage.

"That's all he talked about. He was just so at peace at the cottage; he liked to entertain there," she said.

Senter added that Father Carges "had such a big heart. He was just very personable. You could sit down and chat with him; he had quite a sense of humor."

"He was very loving and caring, very giving," said Karen Brown, liturgical minister at St. Anthony's.

Father Carges is survived by two brothers, Joseph and Robert; sister, Betty Jane Hetzler; and several nieces and nephews.

Father Carges will lie in state at Immaculate Conception Church Thursday, April 24, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 7:30 p.m., followed by evening prayer at 7:30 p.m. His funeral Mass is scheduled for Friday, April 25, at 10:30 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church with Bishop Matthew H. Clark presiding. Interment will be at Calvary Cemetery in Ithaca.

## Catholics, others marching for farm workers

### Supporters begin trek after Seneca Falls rally

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

Migrant farm workers and their supporters — including Catholic clergy, religious and lay people — are marching across the state to Albany this week to press their case for omnibus legislation that would protect farm workers.

The march began in Seneca Falls April 21 with a prayer service at First Presbyterian Church, followed by a rally in Women's Rights National Park.

The march is slated to end in Albany Wednesday, April 30, with a rally at the state capitol. Another group of farm worker supporters is marching from Harlem this week and next to join up with the group beginning their trek from Seneca Falls.

Bill Abom, coordinator of the interfaith Western New York office of Rural and Migrant Ministry in Brockport, said 20 people were slat-

ed to march the whole way, and that dozens more have pledged to join the marchers for varying periods along the way. Abom's office works closely with the Diocese of Rochester's Hispanic Migrant Ministry, which is located at Brockport's Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church. Additionally, the diocese entered into a covenant this year with Rural and Migrant Ministry, Abom said, noting that the diocese has pledged to support his office's work in various ways.

Marchers were slated to stay at and/or participate in events at Catholic and Protestant churches at several points along the way, Abom said. The marchers' route will take them from Seneca Falls through Auburn, Syracuse, Utica, Schenectady and other communities, he said.

According to several march supporters, marchers seek the passage of legislation that would give farm workers such rights as collective bargaining, overtime pay, a day of rest and disability insurance. Such legislation has been passed by the

Assembly the past four years in a row, but it has stalled in the Senate, Abom said, laying the blame at the feet of Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno.

"Everyone knows that if he wants it to pass, it will," Abom said.

Last year, the omnibus resolution was endorsed by the dioceses of Rochester and Buffalo; Catholic Charities of the Finger Lakes; the New York State Catholic Conference; the New York State Labor-Religion Coalition (which the Rochester diocese supports); Pax Christi-Rochester; the House of Mercy and St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, two Catholic shelters in Rochester; Catholic Family Center of Rochester and of Wayne County; and various parishes and religious orders in the Buffalo and Rochester dioceses.

It's important for Catholic leaders to show solidarity with the marchers, according to Father Larry Tracy, who preached at a Holy Saturday vigil for the marchers at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Brockport. Fa-

ther Tracy, a former parochial vicar at Rochester's St. Michael's Church, has ministered to migrant farm workers in the Diocese of Rochester for almost 40 years. He noted that farm workers were among the lowest-paid and least-protected workers in the state, and needed the support of the Catholic clergy in the legislative battle.

"As people who are heralds of the Gospel, of Jesus' Resurrection, the struggle for justice and truth is part of that heralding," he said.

One of the march sponsors is the Centro De Trabajadores Agricolas, known in English as The Independent Farmworker Center. Funded in part by the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, an anti-poverty program of the U.S. bishops, CI-TA is directed by Espacio Alcantara, a Dominican immigrant who also urged Bruno to get the omnibus legislation moving.

"Why doesn't he want to give farm workers the same basic rights that everyone else has?" Alcantara asked in a press statement.