

Daystar ministry plans expansion

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

PITTSFORD — Daystar, a ministry for infants and toddlers with severe health problems, is seeking donations toward expansion of its facility at 47 Lochnavar Parkway.

A ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Daystar operates in a congregation-owned house in a residential neighborhood. The nonprofit program provides foster care as well as child care for children up to age 3.

The planned expansion would occur on a half-acre of land behind the Daystar house. According to Mary Erturk, director, the additional space would allow Daystar's child-care program to expand from three to five days per week, while also providing extra space for the foster-care program and for the three Sisters of St. Joseph who minister and reside at Daystar.

Erturk said the fund drive will be officially launched later this month, with construction to begin in the summer and be completed by the fall. She added that donations will not only support the building drive, but also help provide for additional

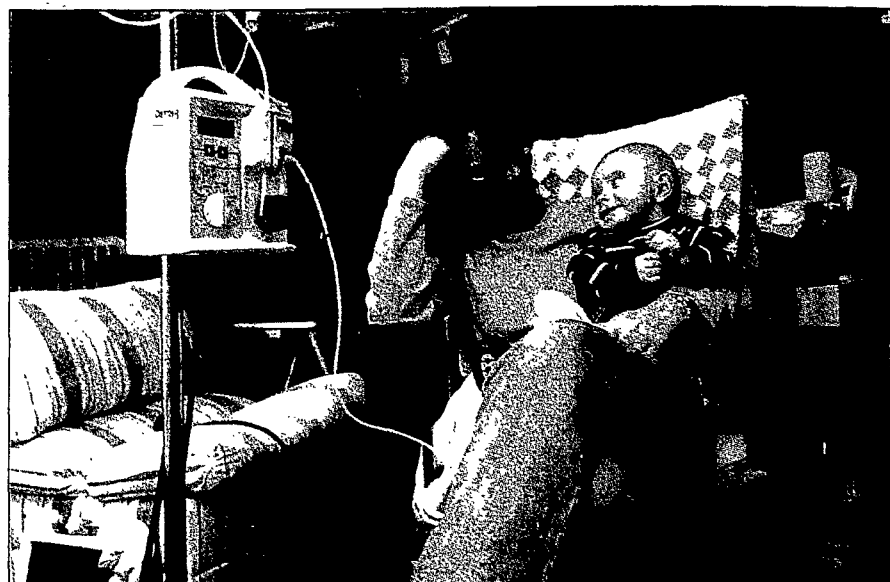
equipment and paid staff.

Daystar currently has only two paid employees who are both part-time. Except for a limited amount of grant money, Daystar is supported totally by donations and volunteer employees.

Daystar began in 1988 strictly as a foster-care program for medically frail infants. It was founded by Sister of St. Joseph Beth LeValley, who currently serves as president of the Greater Rochester Community of Churches. For many years the ministry was located in a house on French Road. The program moved to its current site in February 2001, and child-care services were offered beginning in April 2002.

Foster-care children have an average stay of eight months. Those whose health stabilizes are released to their biological or adopting families.

Daystar has served approximately 70 children in foster care since its inception. Nearly all have had severe medical complications from birth. Many of these children were born to parents with drug or alcohol addictions or AIDS-related diseases;



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

Cheryl Waldman, a child-care provider at Daystar, gets a smile from 1-year-old Sean Brennan as he is nourished through a feeding tube March 26.

some even have terminal illnesses. As Erturk put it, "They're not your average baby." Placement in Daystar is generally arranged through Rochester-area hospitals, Monroe County Social Services and Monroe County Family Court.

Along with foster care and the recent addition of child care, Daystar provides encouragement and advocacy to parents of children with special medical needs. "Involvement with the family is ongoing," Erturk said.

Two of the resident sisters, Sister Myra Monaghan and Sister Anne Maura Morris, have been with

Daystar since its inception. Sister Anne Nothnagle has resided at the Daystar house since 1997.

"This brings more fulfillment and happiness for me than anything material could provide," Sister Monaghan commented.

She added that she draws inspiration from the small children's perseverance in the face of severe illness. "These babies teach us so many lessons," Sister Monaghan said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Those wishing to make donations may send them to Daystar, 47 Lochnavar Parkway, Pittsford, NY 14534.

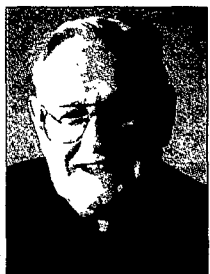
Fr. Edward Foy; pastored in Elmira, Waverly

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

Father Edward J. Foy, who served the Diocese of Rochester in several parishes over the course of his 58-year career, died April 24, 2003, at age 84.

At the time of his death, Father Foy was residing at St. Alphonsus Parish in Auburn, where he had earned the affection and admiration of the pastor, Father Louis A. Vasile.

"I called him Santa Claus in a clerical robe," Father Vasile said. "He had a twinkle in his eye and a great sense of humor, an Irish sense of humor."



Born on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, 1919, Father Foy was baptized and confirmed at Holy Cross Parish, Rochester, and attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries.

Following ordination on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1945, Father Foy served as assistant pastor at the following parishes: St. Bridget's, Rochester, from 1945-47; Our Mother of Sorrows at Paddy Hill in Greece from 1947-51; St. Michael's, Penn Yan, and St. Andrew's, Dundee,

from 1951-56; St. Helen's, Gates, from 1956-58; St. Jerome's, East Rochester, from 1958-63; St. Patrick's, Owego, from 1963-65; Holy Family, Rochester, from 1965-66; and St. Joseph's, Penfield, from 1966-67.

Father Foy was named pastor of St. Cecilia's Parish, Elmira, in June 1967. In 1972, he became pastor of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Elmira, while continuing as administrator of St. Cecilia's until 1974. In 1978, he left Ss. Peter and Paul to become pastor of St. James Parish, Waverly, where he served until his retirement in 1989.

In the 1990s, Father Foy lived at parishes in Corning and Elmira Heights before moving to St. Alphonsus. He assisted at various area parishes, and was a devout, "non-nonsense" priest, Father Vasile said, adding that the priest was known for his counsel.

"He was very firm, but very loving as well."

Father Foy is survived by two brothers, John D. Foy of Rochester and Raymond Foy of Florida; three

sisters, Aileen Brundage and Mary Lochner of Rochester, and Kathleen Wanamaker of Myrtle Beach, S.C.; 21 nieces and nephews; and many grandnieces, grandnephews and cousins.

His brother, John, said Father Foy enjoyed being a priest because it gave him an opportunity to serve people and express his love of God. He added that Father Foy celebrated many sacraments — marriage, funeral liturgies and baptisms — for his large extended family.

"We're going to miss all that wholesale business," John Foy said with a chuckle. "He did baptisms by the dozens."

About 200 people attended an April 28 funeral liturgy celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark at St. Alphonsus. Interment took place in Ss. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Elmira.

Memorial contributions may be sent to either St. Joseph's School, 101 E. Genesee St., Auburn, NY 13021, or to the Priests Relief Fund, c/o the Diocese of Rochester's Priest Personnel Office, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624.

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