

Rochester parish marks 75th year

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

About 240 people attended a Mass and dinner on Oct. 5 marking the 75th anniversary of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish in Rochester.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark presided at the noon Mass, which was concelebrated by five priests: Father Robert Werth, pastor of the Roman Catholic Community of 19th Ward, comprising Good Counsel, St. Augustine's and St. Monica's parishes; Father Richard O'Connell, priest-in-residence at St. Monica's; Father Paul G. Wohlrab, priest-in-residence at St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport and pastor of Good Counsel from 1967-85; Father Peter Enyan-Boadu, former associate pastor of Good Counsel and current pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Brockport; and Father Ronald E. Gaesser, pastor of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Ithaca, who grew up a parishioner of Good Counsel.

The Mass featured a reunion of several parishioners who had played liturgical music over the years, according to Debra Millet, who played guitar and sang in Good Counsel's folk group during the 1970s, '80s and '90s. A highlight of the anniversary Mass occurred when the congregation and the choir sang the Lord's Prayer a cappella, she said.

"It was just very powerful and very touching," said Millet, who added that she has been an active member at the parish all of her 51 years, serving as a eucharistic minister, children's liturgist and social-events volunteer.

"Whenever they've asked for my help, I've gladly given it," she said.

Following the Mass, a dinner was served in the gymnasium-auditorium of Flower City School, a Rochester city school now housed in the building of the former parish school, which closed in 1989. Rita Redfield, a member of the parish since its founding in 1928, was a member of Good Counsel's original first-grade class in 1930.

"I was there the first day it opened, and I was there the last day it closed," said Redfield, who is also a longtime parish volunteer. Redfield teaches religious education to second- and third-graders, and has also assisted with the counting of collections from weekend Masses. Redfield lives next door to Good Counsel.

"The Lord's my neighbor, and he's the best neighbor I've ever had," she said with a smile, adding that her home seems singularly blessed since it has never lost power, not even during the blackout that struck the Northeast this August.

David E. Moore, another longtime



Leila Navidi/Catholic Courier

Deacon Klaus Schultz (right) looks on as Bishop Matthew H. Clark, assisted by Father Peter Enyan-Boadu (left), presides at Mass Oct. 5 during the 75th anniversary celebration for Rochester's Our Lady of Good Counsel Church.

parishioner, has served as a part-time pastoral minister at Good Counsel and also chaired the anniversary committee. Moore said he was happy to see so many former and current parishioners reunited at the dinner in the former school.

"We could've gone to a party house, but it seemed more-special here," he said.

In 1992, Moore authored a parish history that noted Good Counsel parish was founded to accommodate the spiritual needs of the growing population in southwestern Rochester during the 1920s. Sometimes called "The Friendly Airport Parish" for its proximity to Greater Rochester International Airport, Good Counsel is currently home to

218 registered families as well as Emmanuel Church of the Deaf, which serves diocesan Catholics who are deaf or hearing impaired.

One of Good Counsel's newest members is Kathy Allen, who joined three years ago and currently serves on the liturgy committee. Along with learning more about the Mass through her committee work, Allen said she also learned about Moore, a fellow committee member. She apparently liked what she learned — Allen and Moore plan to be married Dec. 27. The couple share a strong fondness for Good Counsel.

"I like the sense of community," Allen said. "It's small enough so that everybody who comes to Mass pretty much knows everybody."

Ecumenical, interfaith representatives meet

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

In the months ahead, the Diocese of Rochester's ecumenical and interfaith representatives plan a host of activities, from a forum on ethics in talk radio to an interfaith initiative to house the homeless.

Diocesan representatives to other faith communities — as well as several Catholics interested in ecumenical and interfaith work — were among the more than 20 people who gathered at the diocesan Pastoral Center the evening of Oct. 6 for the diocese's Ecumenical and Interreligious Fall Convocation.

The convocation's keynote presentation was given by Sister Beth LeValley, SSJ, president of the Greater Rochester Community of Churches, an ecumenical organization to which the diocese belongs. Sister LeValley noted that she is working to plan a forum on ethics in talk radio. This idea

was inspired by controversy surrounding recently fired Rochester-area talk-radio host Bob Lonsberry, who twice made remarks perceived as racist in reference to Rochester Mayor Bill Johnson, an African-American.

Although some religious leaders in the community wanted Lonsberry fired, GRCC did not take that approach, she said, and had instead invited the commentator to learn about diversity through GRCC's "Beyond Racism" project. Since the controversy began, GRCC also has been spearheading a drive to learn what kind of ethics codes area radio stations use, and Sister LeValley said she hopes to invite experts on radio and free speech to participate in the upcoming forum.

Also during the convocation Denise Mack, pastoral associate at Church of the Assumption in Fairport, noted she is part of a new pro-

gram called the Rochester Area Interfaith Hospitality Network, which aims to help homeless families. Based on a nationwide program, network members, drawn from an area's religious congregations, take turns housing homeless families until they are settled in a permanent home.

The Rochester-area network already has commitments from eight Catholic, Jewish and Protestant congregations to work on the project, Mack said. Information can be found on the Web at www.raih.org.

Convocation participants also received written updates on both diocesan and community-wide ecumenical and interfaith efforts. Among the latest initiatives is a series of public discussions about various faiths. Called "Interfaith Journey 2003-2004," the talks are slated to begin Oct. 13 and are sponsored by the Interfaith Forum of Greater Rochester.

The schedule is as follows:

- **Islam** — Monday, Oct. 3, 6:15 p.m., Islamic Center of Rochester, 727 Westfall Road, Brighton.
 - **Hinduism** — Monday, Nov. 3, 7 p.m., Hindu Temple of Rochester, 120 Pinnacle Road, Pittsford.
 - **Tibetan Buddhism** — Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m., Amithaba Foundation, 11 S. Goodman St., Rochester.
 - **Sikhism** — Sunday, Feb. 7, 11:30 a.m., Sikh Gurudwara, 2041 Dublin Road, Penfield.
 - **Baha'i Faith** — Friday, April 23, 7 p.m., Rochester Baha'i Center, 693 East Ave., Rochester.
 - **Native American** — Sunday, May 16, 1 p.m., Ganondagan State Historic Site, 7000 County Road 41, Victor.
 - **Judaism** — currently being scheduled for next March at Temple Sinai in Penfield.
- For information, call Mike Boucher at 585/325-5260.

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