

Parish embraces mysteries of light

Jennifer Burke/Catholic Courier

The people of Holy Rosary Parish in Rochester take their name and their devotion to the rosary seriously.

When the church was built in 1916, three sets of stained-glass windows were installed — one for each set of mysteries of the rosary. Scenes depicting the joyful and glorious mysteries grace the walls on either side of the pews, and the sorrowful mysteries let in light above the sanctuary. The church is now home to more rosary-related art, although this time, it's not stained-glass windows.

On Oct. 5, the parish dedicated a set of icons representing the new mysteries of light, which were suggested by Pope John Paul II in October 2002, when he wrote an apostolic letter declaring the next 12 months the "Year of the Rosary." The new mysteries focus on the public life of Christ, including his baptism in the Jordan, his self-manifestation at the wedding feast of Cana, his proclamation of the kingdom of God, his Transfiguration and his institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper.

"Since the church windows have the mysteries of the rosary so prominently displayed, I just felt that we needed to do something to represent the mysteries of light. We couldn't put in five new stained-glass windows, so we had to think of something else," said Father Gary Tyman, Holy Rosary's pastor.

With the help of Rose Davis, pastoral associate, Father Tyman decided to order icons to depict the scenes of the new mysteries. They'd heard of a group of Desert Fathers residing at the Light of Christ Monastery in California that produce icons of Christ, the Virgin Mary and the saints. Father Tyman and Davis went through their Monastery Icons catalog to find the appropriate icons for the new mysteries. The icons were delivered to the church Sept. 29.

Father Tyman said the icons, which are 38 inches wide and 4 feet tall, are produced by taking a high-quality photograph of an original painting, then laminating that photograph against a wood backing. The icons were mounted on the facing of the choir loft after the dedication Mass.

Each icon was sponsored by an individual or family in the parish, who paid \$770 for the purchase cost and



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

Icons representing the rosary's new mysteries of light are displayed Oct. 8 in the sanctuary of Rochester's Holy Rosary Church. The icons were dedicated during Mass Oct. 5.

shipping in return for a dedication plaque with the names of the sponsor and in whose memory the icon was given. Father Tyman said most of the icons were sponsored before they arrived at the church.

"It was something very attractive to our parish," he said.

Before the icons arrived, Father Tyman was worried they might be overshadowed by the colors of the stained-glass windows, which he said have a "gem-like effect" when they're illuminated. He was relieved of his fears, however, when he saw the colorful icons with their bright yellows, reds, blues and greens.

"The colors are so vivid that they can stand up to the windows," he said.

Parishioners also tried to embrace the Year of the Rosary in other ways, Father Tyman said. They held adult religious-education sessions on the new mysteries of light and on the importance of praying the rosary. Printed material and brochures on the rosary, especially the mysteries of light, were made available to

parishioners as well.

Father Tyman said he is grateful for the pope's apostolic letter, and the opportunity it gives for educating people about the real purpose of praying the rosary.

"He reminds us of the importance of the mysteries of the rosary to help us really enter into prayer and contemplation, so that praying the rosary is not just a mechanical repetition of prayers, but there's actually something happening spiritually," he said.

He added that thinking about what each of the mysteries is actually saying is an important part of praying the rosary.

"I was struck (in the pope's apostolic letter) by how he talks about the rosary focusing on the person and life of Jesus, and the new mysteries are to kind of fill that void," Father Tyman said. "I think many people think of the rosary as being about Mary. It's really about Jesus, but Mary is the one showing Jesus to us. She's standing next to us, pointing out Jesus."

CEMETERIES OF THE ROCHESTER CATHOLIC DIOCESE

1. CALVARY CEMETERY
Parish Cemetery of St. Mary's,
Clark Street, Canandaigua 14424
585-394-1220
2. HOLY SEPULCHRE CEMETERY
& MAUSOLEUM
2461 Lake Avenue
Rochester, NY 14612
585-458-4110
3. MOUNT OLIVET CEMETERY
East Canal Road, Office:
152 Main Street
Brockport, NY 14420
585-637-4500
4. ST. JAMES
503 Clark St.,
Waverly, NY 14892
607-565-2014
5. ST. JOSEPH'S CEMETERY
6020 Lake Ave. Ext.,
Auburn, NY 13021
315-252-5197
6. ST. MARY OUR MOTHER
816 West Broad Street
Horseheads, NY 14845
607-739-3817
7. ST. PATRICK'S
Murray Street, Office:
46 Stanley St.
Mt. Morris, NY 14510
585-658-2110
8. ST. COLUMBKILLE CEMETERY
CEMETERY OF ST. PATRICK PARISH
97 W. Bayard Street,
Seneca Falls, NY 13148
315-568-5203
9. SS. PETER & PAUL'S
523 Franklin St.
Elmira, NY 14904
607-732-5111

Kids' Chronicle

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