

VOTF affiliate is growing

Rob Cullivan/Catholic Courier

ROCHESTER — Voice of the Faithful, a Boston-based group formed in response to the clergy sex-abuse scandal, has formed an affiliate in the Diocese of Rochester.

According to Mary Ann Ribble-Brock, a parishioner at Rochester's St. Mary's Parish and VOTF's regional coordinator, the group has three goals:

- To support those who have been abused.
- To support "priests of integrity."
- To shape "structural change in the church" with the objective of giving lay Catholics more input into the church's governance. VOTF maintains that the abuse crisis was exacerbated by the fact that church leaders were not formally accountable to lay Catholics.

Three working groups have formed to focus on each goal, Ribble-Brock said. Kathy Lee, a parishioner at Church of the Resurrection in Fairport, chairs the working group on supporting victims. She said that VOTF does not intend to offer therapy to victims, but could offer them referrals to appropriate agencies and services.

Ribble-Brock added that the

working group supporting those who have been abused will be holding public meetings in the Dugan Center at St. Mary's at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, March 29, and Monday, April 5.

Elizabeth Williams, a parishioner at Brighton's Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, chairs the VOTF affiliate's steering committee, and said VOTF is examining the study on the abuse crisis by John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Meanwhile, as part of its effort to support priests, VOTF's affiliate wants to survey priests to learn what issues currently concern them, Williams said.

Regarding its third goal of structural change, VOTF is examining how parish councils are formed in the diocese to determine whether members are appointed or chosen democratically, Williams said. VOTF is also studying Vatican II documents related to the role of lay Catholics, she added.

VOTF has received mixed receptions in dioceses across the country, but the Rochester diocese is willing to work with VOTF, according to Doug Mandelaro, diocesan spokesman.

"VOTF's stated mission is to support and strengthen the Catholic Church and to engage people in

thoughtful dialogue while being faithful to its teachings," Mandelaro said. "Bishop Clark supports such dialogue as long as faithfulness and constructiveness prevail. From what I understand, the organization is working to raise consciousness about the issue of sexual abuse, so that the church can both learn from the mistakes of the past and create a safe and holy environment for all now and into the future. That is Bishop Clark's goal, too."

Ribble-Brock said that VOTF members have met with such diocesan officials as Father Daniel J. Condon, chancellor, and Barbara Pedeville, victims advocate for the diocese. Father Condon gave a February presentation to VOTF, in which he addressed the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, Ribble-Brock said. The U.S. bishops adopted the charter and accompanying norms in 2002 in response to priestly abuse of children. In accordance with the charter, the Rochester Diocese last year established a new Code of Pastoral Conduct, which enhanced existing diocesan policies for preventing sexual abuse.

Pedeville said her meeting with VOTF went well, and that she explained diocesan procedures for

CORRECTION

A photo caption on page 12 of the March 18 Catholic Courier misidentified participants in a St. Joseph's Table at Rochester's Our Lady of Good Counsel Church. Participants were parishioners of the Roman Catholic Community of the 19th Ward, which includes those who attend Good Counsel as well as St. Augustine, St. Monica and Emmanuel Church of the Deaf. The event was sponsored by the community's Italian Cultural Committee.

handling sex-abuse allegations as well as the diocese's educational and employee-training efforts regarding abuse.

"(VOTF members) were gracious, non-threatening, welcoming and clearly gave a picture of working together for a common goal — that of healing and outreach for victims of clergy sex abuse," Pedeville said. "They felt that as fellow and sister Catholics, they wanted those Catholics who had been abused to know that they are cared about by other Catholics."

For their part, VOTF affiliate members want to help heal the church, Lee said.

"We want to fix what is so terribly broken in our church," she said.

Father Emmett Halloran, 78; teacher, pastor

Jennifer Burke/Catholic Courier

Father Emmett J. Halloran, a priest of the Diocese of Rochester for 53 years, died March 21, 2004, at the age of 78.

Father Halloran, a native of Rochester, was educated at the school of his home parish, Blessed Sacrament. He attended St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries in Rochester and was ordained June 3, 1950, by Bishop James Kearney. He served as assistant pastor at St. Patrick's Parish in Seneca Falls un-



til 1951, when he was appointed assistant pastor of St. Michael's Parish in Newark, where he served until 1956.

In July 1956 he began serving at St. Andrew's Seminary, where he taught history and English for the next 11 years. In 1967, he became rector of King's Preparatory Seminary, where he remained until the school's closing in 1970.

It was while working as a faculty member at King's Preparatory that Father Albert Delmonte met Father Halloran. Father Delmonte said working with Father Halloran was a great experience.

"He was wonderful, really. The faculty, the students and the students' parents thought very highly of Father Halloran and really respected him," Father Delmonte said.



After the closing of King's Preparatory, Father Halloran was appointed pastor of St. Columba's Parish in Caledonia and St. Patrick's Parish in Mumford, where he served until 1978. Then he was appointed pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Greece, where he remained for the next 10 years. In 1988, Father Halloran became pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in Macedon, and served there until his retirement in June 1996.

After retiring, Father Halloran was invited to live at St. Mary's Parish in Canandaigua, where he helped out whenever he could and did whatever was asked of him, according to Father Thomas Mull, pastor. He preached, celebrated baptisms and visited the sick in the hospitals, Father Mull said.

"He was a very easygoing guy. He had a wonderful sense of humor, a very dry wit, and he was very generous with his time. He was very

good to us. We're very fortunate," Father Mull said.

Father Halloran enjoyed listening to classical music, loved the opera and was well-known for his sense of humor, Father Delmonte said.

"He was a wit. He was just a wonderful person to talk to. He was quiet, and kind of reserved. He was a very kind priest, a priest's priest. We're going to miss him," Father Delmonte said.

Father Halloran is survived by his brother, Michael Halloran of Bloomfield, and several nieces and nephews.

He will lie in state at St. Mary's Church in Canandaigua from 2-5 p.m. March 25. An evening prayer vigil, at which Father Delmonte will speak, will follow. Bishop Matthew H. Clark will preside at a funeral Mass at 10 a.m. March 26 at St. Mary's. Interment will be in St. Michael's Cemetery in Penn Yan.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Mary's Parish, 95 N. Main St., Canandaigua, NY 14424. The family requests the courtesy of no flowers.

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