



CATHOLIC

WESTERN NEW YORK

October 2009

Inside

Program helps deal with alcohol addiction

Addiction to alcohol is a heavy burden for anyone to deal with. The Calix program helps people overcome addictions to alcohol through religion. The unique program operates in a group setting which promotes spiritual development.

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Longtime pastor set to retirement

Msgr. Angelo Caligiuri, longtime pastor of Infant of Prague Parish in Cheektowaga, reflects on his 51 years in the priesthood as he prepares for retirement. He says it has been a half-century filled with excitement, encouragement, and a surprise at every turn.

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Youth attend Lights for the World

Youth from the diocese learned more about their faith at the Lights for the World gathering. Among the topics discussed in sessions were finding God and dealing with stress.

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St. Gerard Church closer to move

By Mark Ciemcioch
Staff Reporter



Photo by Mark Ciemcioch

Father Francis Mazur (right), who was the last pastor of St. Gerard Church, and Father David Dye of Atlanta inspect the interior of St. Gerard Church in Buffalo.

An ambitious plan to move the shuttered St. Gerard Church located at Bailey St. and Delevan Avenue in Buffalo to suburban Atlanta took a few steps closer to reality when Atlanta pastor Father David Dye visited the diocese in mid-September to build support for the cause.

Although it is still early in the process, the plan is to transport St. Gerard Church – one of the oldest and grandest buildings in the Diocese of Buffalo – to Norcross, Ga., where it will be known as Mary Our Queen Church. The unusual plan of “preservation by relocation” was announced late last year after Father Dye contacted diocesan officials about his intentions.

The current Mary Our Queen Parish is a medium-sized community with 725 families, but it is growing. The parish was considering constructing a new building and even had an architect draw a plan. However, since the parish wanted to have a traditional building, “a church that looked like a church,” Father Dye began contacting Northeastern dioceses that have closed their own buildings in recent years, just as the Diocese of Buffalo did.

A deacon from the Diocese of Allentown told Father Dye about a parish he grew up in as a child in Buffalo. Father Dye contacted the Diocese of Buffalo about his idea, and officials pointed him to St. Gerard Church, which closed last year and is the very building the Allentown deacon recommended.

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Olean family fulfills daughter's dream of prayer ministry

By Patrick J. Buechi
Staff Reporter

It is a parent's worst nightmare – the loss of a child. Recovery is never easy, but experts suggest looking to the Lord, telling the child's story, and making a living memorial to soothe the grief.

For the Cygan family, starting the Morning Star Family Holy Hour helped them after the death of their 12-year-old daughter Margaret following a car accident on Aug. 16, 2001. It was Margaret's dream to have a children's prayer group, so her parents, Stan and Mary, began a

prayer ministry.

“Two weeks before we had the accident she asked me to start a children's prayer group,” said Mary Cygan, Margaret's mother. “She read a beautiful book on the devotion to the Immaculate Heart. It was written for children, and she wanted to really start a children's prayer group.”

After the accident, that thought lingered in Mary's mind and she prayed for a sign.

“You have to give me a really strong sign to start something like that. You have to have somebody
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Photo courtesy of Mary and Stan Cygan

Michael Kelly kisses a statue of Jesus at the Morning Star Family retreat held in Franklinville in August. Assisting are Ben Perkins and Father Marek Stybor, OFM, Conv.