



READY TO hear the message offered 5,200 attendees at the March 4, Boston Catholic Men's Club Conference at the New Boston Convention and Exhibition Center, are, left, Father George E. Harrison, parochial administrator of Holy Name Parish in Fall River, and parishioner Ed Hodkinson. Seated behind them are Louis Ledoux and Henry Dion from Fall River, who traveled with the parish contingent for the show of faith event. (Photo courtesy of David Pacheco)

'Spirited' Catholic men's, women's conferences draw an amazing 8,500

By DEACON JAMES N. DUNBAR

BOSTON — The Boston Catholic Men's Conference on March 4 and its counterpart Women's Conference a day earlier were billed as an energetic show of faith at an unforgettable spiritual encounter.

"They were all of that and more," reported a tired but happy Scot Landry, coordinator and co-founder of the BCMC, who also directed the hastily-planned Women's Conference in this its first-year gathering.

"To have 8,500 Catholics come together on the weekend from the Boston Archdiocese and from surrounding dioceses, was an awesome sign of hope when we look to the future of the Church," he acknowledged.

"It was wonderful, with 3,300 women in the new Boston Convention and Exhibition Center on the Friday night which greatly exceeded our expectation after selling 2,250 tickets prior," said

Scot Landry, brother of Father Roger Landry, executive director of *The Anchor*.

"We thought that if we had 500 women it would be a great door attendance, because we had only 30 days to plan for them," he told *The Anchor*.

"But we had 1,000 women sign up at the door. At 3,300 attendees

it meant indeed that the largest Catholic women's conference in the country was in Boston in 2006."

But more than the numbers, "the energy on Friday night was incredibly palpable and motivating, not only to the organizing team, but to all of the speakers

Turn to page 13 — Spirit



Diocese of Fall River

OFFICIAL

His Excellency, the Most Reverend George W. Coleman, Bishop of Fall River, has announced the following appointment:

Rev. David Stopyra, OFM Conv. to Parochial Administrator, St. Jacques Parish in Taunton, while remaining Pastor of Holy Rosary Parish in Taunton.

Effective March 1, 2006

Director of Religious Education

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH OF 1300 FAMILIES AND GROWING, SEEKS AN ENERGETIC AND ENTHUSIASTIC FULL TIME DIRECTOR OF ITS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM INCLUDING ITS SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION, BEGINNING JULY 1ST. PRESENTLY THERE ARE 700 STUDENTS ENROLLED FOR GRADES 1-10. QUALIFICATIONS INCLUDE: A PRACTICING CATHOLIC WITH EXPERIENCE OF 4-5 YEARS TEACHING; STRONG ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS; SOME EXPERIENCE AS A DIRECTOR AND A DEGREE IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES IS PREFERRED; SHOULD BE COMMITTED TO THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF THE PARISH COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE AND ABLE TO RECRUIT AND TRAIN TEACHERS. SALARY AND BENEFITS ARE COMMENSURATE WITH EXPERIENCE AND GUIDELINES OFFERED BY THE FALL RIVER DIOCESE. PLEASE SEND RESUMES TO REV. THOMAS C. LOPES, 193 MAIN ST., NORTH EASTON, MA 02356.

Dispensation from abstinence granted for St. Patrick's Day

FALL RIVER — Bishop George W. Coleman has granted Catholics in the Fall River diocese a dispensation from the Lenten rule of abstaining from meat on Friday, March 17, which is the feast of St. Patrick of Ireland.

The Diocese of Providence, R.I., and the Archdiocese of Boston have also granted the same dispensation.

In granting the permission to eat meat that day, Fall River diocesan officials urged Catholics to carry out some other suitable form of self-denial in accordance with the spirit of the Lenten season.

Fairhaven native celebrates 75 years as Maryknoll Sister

MARYKNOLL, N.Y. — Sister Rita Marie Regan is one of two Maryknoll Sisters who will celebrate 75 years as Maryknoll Sisters in the Residential Care chapel here on March 12. They will be joined by three Sisters who have been Maryknoll Missioners for 70 years.

Marie E. Regan was born on May 22, 1907, in Fairhaven, the daughter of Mary McFarlane and William Regan. She had an older brother Joseph who joined Maryknoll before Marie. He later became bishop of the new Diocese of Tagum, Mindanao, Philippine Islands. Marie attended St. Joseph's Grammar School and then Sacred Heart Academy for one year, and graduated from Fairhaven High School in 1924. Afterwards she studied for two years at Chandler Secretarial School, Boston, and then worked five years as a secretary for C.C. Buchard & Co., Boston.

She entered the Maryknoll Sisters on July 2, 1931, and pronounced her First Vows on January 6, 1934, receiving the religious name of Sister Rita Marie, and her Final Vows on January 6, 1937, in Hong Kong. In 1934 she received her first mission assignment to China and went to the Diocese of Kaying where she fo-

cused on catechetics. She lived with the people in the area, teaching the doctrine while learning their customs. From 1964 until 1951 she was Superior of all the Maryknoll Sisters missioned to the Diocese of Kaying. After being under house arrest, she was among the Maryknollers who had to leave China when the Communists took over.

In 1951 she went to Maryknoll, N.Y., where she served in Congregational Services emphasizing speaking in parishes and schools as there was a great interest in China. She went to Taiwan in 1953 where she again became active in catechetics. Sister Rita Marie also attended Coady Institute in Nova Scotia, Canada. Her work after that was primarily in Pastoral Work, teaching English in two parishes, and being in charge of the Adult Education program in Taiwan.

She returned to Maryknoll, N.Y., in 1971 where she studied at Roger's College and earned a Bachelor's in Community Service in 1973, and also served again in Congregational Services. After 1973 she returned to Toufen, Taiwan, where she worked for 21 years.

Sister returned to Maryknoll, N.Y., in 1995 and in recent years has resided in Residential Care.

MISSION NEWS

"This Lent, I want to do more.
I want to give them my hands
and my heart."

These are the words of Father Gilbert Sales, a missionary from the Philippines, who holds out to the street children of Mongolia the hope of our Lord's Resurrection.

Daily, he travels deep underground, to the sewer that many of these little ones call home, bringing food, clothing — and the knowledge that even in their "Good Friday" existence, Jesus has not abandoned them and He loves them. Father Sales also cares for these children above ground at a Church-run center. ♣ This Lent, will you pray for and offer financial help through the Propagation of the Faith to support the priests, Religious and lay catechists in the Missions as they serve among the suffering poor no matter the "Good Friday" circumstances.



The Society for THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH
...A Pontifical Mission Society

Attn: Column Rev. Msgr. John J. Oliveira, V.E. ANCH. 03/10/06
106 Illinois St., New Bedford, MA 02745

Enclosed is my Lenten gift for the Missions. . .
☑\$40 . . . \$1 for each day of Lent

☑ \$100 ☑ \$50 ☑ \$25 ☑ \$10 ☑ Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 236-9083.

ATTLEBORO — Perpetual eucharistic Adoration is held at St. Joseph's Church, 208 South Main Street. Adorers are needed. For more information call 508-226-1115.

MISCELLANEOUS

ATTLEBORO — A Lenten Taize service will be held March 14 from 7-8 p.m. at St. Stephen's Church, 683 South Main Street. It will include music, prayer, Scripture and quiet meditation. For more information call 508-222-0641.

ATTLEBORO — The Way of the Cross will be held on Friday evenings at 7 this month at the National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette. For more information call 508-222-5410.

ATTLEBORO — A Lenten seminar will be presented by Dorothy Levesque at 7 p.m. on Tuesday evenings during Lent at the La Salette Center for Christian Living. Each session will focus on what Jesus experienced each day of his journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday. For more information call 508-

FALL RIVER — The seminar, "Healing Wisdom: Discover Spirituality via the Arts, Music, Poetry, and Ministry," will be held March 25 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Saint Anne's Hospital. It is sponsored by the Fall River Diocesan Council of Catholic Nurses. For more information call Betty Novacek at 508-678-2373.

NORTH DARTMOUTH — Roland and Penny Hebert lost all their Prayer Line E-mail addresses during a recent computer upgrade. They would like to re-establish their group, which included many Cursillo contacts. To be included in the prayer line send an E-mail to them at rolpenny37@verizon.net.

WESTBORO — The New England Conference for Separated, Divorced, Remarried and Widowed Support Group leaders will be held March 25 at St. Luke Parish, 70 West Main Street. For more information call Scottie Foley of the Fall River Office of Family Ministry at 508-999-6420.

RETREATS

MASHPEE — "Time Out," a

couples retreat, is scheduled for March 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at The Brain Center. For more information call Peggy Patenaude at 508-548-9149.

FALL RIVER — The Catholic parishes of Fall River will again host a city-wide Lenten Mission from March 20-23. The theme of the mission will be "Receive the Embrace of Christ": March 20, St. Michael

Spirit

Continued from page three

who were there as well," he added.

Emma Mahoney and her daughter Pamela Mahoney-Pacheco, were among 52 women from Holy Name Parish in Fall River, who boarded a chartered bus on the Friday afternoon and arrived at the Convention Center at 6 p.m.

"It all was a wonderful experience," Mrs. Mahoney said. "I had never heard Father Corapi speak before and he was inspiring and uplifting; as well as the other speakers. It was so excellent that time passed by quickly. I enjoyed Mass with Cardinal-designate Sean O'Malley, our former bishop; but I never go to talk to him. We arrived home just before midnight. Would I do it again? Absolutely. I enjoyed it."

For the Men's Conference that began early Saturday morning, "it was unbelievable to have a facility as large as the Convention Center packed with 5,200 men who had driven from as far away as Ottawa, Canada to join with locals, mostly from the greater Boston area," Scot Landry added. Many had left home at 1 a.m., to travel to the event.

To see the energy in the room and the response they had to all of the speakers was incredibly gratifying as an organizer, he reported.

While he has not yet sent out an official feedback survey, he reports he has received 250 unsolicited E-mails the day immediately following the conferences.

"People tell us 'thank you'; but they also say how awesome the conference was for them. Many said that throughout the last few decades they have not felt as proud to be a Catholic as they were at these conferences."

"That is incredibly touching to me and the rest of the organizers," Landry said. "Because this is why we do this; to try to help people get energized about their faith and then to take the energy created individually and collectively at the conference and turn that into people doing new things to grow in their faith and help others grow in their faith."

Landry said his efforts would not have succeeded without the enormous help of many people.

"We could not have done this without the support of 130 parish captains and 150 volunteers at the conferences. Logistically the conferences flowed well," he said.

There were small hitches, but

Parish, Essex Street; March 21, SS. Peter & Paul Parish at Holy Cross Church, Pulaski Street; March 22, St. Anne Parish, South Main Street; and March 23, Holy Rosary Parish, Beattie Street. Mass will be celebrated each evening at 7 with a mission homily. Pastry and coffee will follow. All are most welcome. On March 23, the sacrament of reconciliation will be available from 6-6:45 p.m.

SOCIAL EVENTS

CHATHAM — "Laugh and Smile Away the Winter Blues," will be presented tonight at 7 p.m. at the Chatham Bars Inn. It will include singer Sarah Burrill and a performance by Sister Anne Bryan Smollin, author of the book "Live, Laugh and Be Blessed." For more information call 508-430-1692.

of fraternity of real men coming together to profess their faith in Christ, in the Church and in one another," Minniger said. "Truly we are a band of brothers, all 5,200 of the men who attended. I am very glad I got out of bed a little earlier than usual to drive up to Boston for the day. Can't wait 'til next year."

Seminarian Greg Bettencourt, a member of Holy Family Parish, East Taunton, said the conference "was a true inspiration. It was a great witness to see so many men step forward and take accountability in their faith and the issues of our society today that test our faith. The speakers presented with great enthusiasm and were overwhelmed by the turn out of good, Catholic men. Father Corapi was the most energetic and frank speaker, and his energy and charisma left many of the men with a true sense of responsibility to stand up for the Church and her teachings."

Dan Boucher of St. George Parish in Westport came away saying that Father Corapi's message of "never surrender" was inspirational.

"Hearing him speak about the evil spirits and the devil and how we must fight against them and never surrender was just what I needed," said Boucher. "Being a soldier for Christ! I haven't heard words like this since I was confirmed back in grammar school. The other challenge that I felt I needed to accept was to learn more about my faith by studying the Catholic Catechism. Being introduced to Father Corapi's words, attitude and materials was just what I needed to affirm my path on my journey to Jesus."

Boucher said that with the motivation and help from Father Corapi's materials, "I'm convinced that God will continue to pour his graces into our efforts to grow stronger in our faith and give us the courage to fight against the devil and all his lies."

Brian Fraga of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in New Bedford said he found the conference "a phenomenal experience. Great speakers, great Christian fellowship, it was an experience I will never forget. My favorite part was Scott Hahn's discussion of his conversion and his observations of the links between revelation and the Mass. And Father Corapi's "Spiritual Warfare" talks were quite motivating too."

no large issues, all because of the commitment, passion and numbers of the volunteers."

Landry was quick to say that the "personal stories of the attendees are way more important than anything I or any of my organizers could say. I hope you get some of the same quality of testimony I have seen in the E-mails, because they are quite powerful."

David A. Pacheco, whose wife and mother-in-law attended the Women's Conference, was the captain or team leader who arranged Holy Name Parish's men's contingent of 52 — including a few from other parishes — to travel to Boston.

"Father Corapi was spectacular, what a dynamic speaker," Pacheco said. "Father Cantalamessa is very intelligent and articulate. Scott Hahn was phenomenal and Sean Forrest geared his talk to a young group of men. Everyone I spoke to said they were most inspired and glad they had made the effort. Mass with Bishop Sean was moving, as was his homily. We captains were asked to be collectors at the Mass. Afterwards, we captains were presented rosaries blessed by Pope Benedict."

For Pacheco, it was a long day. "We were back at the parish at midnight. But the well-planned conference, a show of faith by Catholic men together, was worth it."

Many other attendees had more to say:

"The dominant theme of the Conference for me was a calling for 'men to be men,'" said Bobby Lahard of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Acushnet.

"Each speaker delivered, in his own powerful, compelling style, a challenge to husbands, fathers and men of faith to walk the talk of Catholic doctrine, to love our spouses as Christ loves his Church, and to teach our children the undiluted truth of salvation. What a refreshing reminder of our awesome privilege and responsibility as men of God to live out the Word in our daily lives."

Steve Minniger, a deacon candidate for the Fall River diocese, and a member of Holy Redeemer Parish in Chatham, rated Fathers Cantalamessa and Corapi, and scholar Scott Hahn, "world class!"

"Each had a terrific message that is much needed in our culture — but more than the speakers, there was a great sense

Third annual Flower Show at Catholic Memorial Home starts March 15

FALL RIVER — The theme of Catholic Memorial Home's third annual Flower Show on March 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the solarium is "A Cottage Garden."

All are invited to visit and enjoy a unique country cottage, a view from the back porch, or the interactive potting bench — and many other garden displays aimed at lifting the spirits.

The solarium has been transformed to celebrate this wonderful time that nature gives us each year, and the staff is excited to

welcome residents, employees, families and visitors from surrounding communities.

Everything is new and once again filled with hope as people enjoy budding trees and shoots of green sprouting forth. Spring has arrived a bit early at Catholic Memorial Home and they would like to share this wonderful display with everyone.

For additional information contact Mary Jean Storino, therapeutic activities director at 508-679-0011.

Lq# \ rxu#Sud | huv

Please pray for the following priests during the coming weeks

March 16

1957, Rev. Francis J. Maloney, S.T.L., Pastor, St. Mary, North Attleboro

March 17

2004, Rev. Henry R. Creighton, SS.CC, Damien Residence

March 18

1989, Rev. Robert D. Forand, C.P., West Hartford, Conn.

March 19

1905, Rev. John J. McQuaide, Assistant, St. Mary, Taunton

March 20

1951, Rev. Francis A. Mrozinski, Pastor, St. Hedwig, New Bedford