

Catholic Courier

MONTHLY WEEKLY . COM

MONROE/LIVINGSTON WEEKLY EDITION ■ DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK ■ VOL. 3 NO. 52 ■ MARCH 24/25, 2007 ■ www.catholiccourier.com

Capsules

ANTI-TERRORISM BILL MAY HINDER REFUGEES

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A coalition of religious groups and refugee advocates is calling on Congress to back off from provisions of the Patriot Act and Real ID Act that they argue have blocked thousands of vulnerable people from being admitted to the United States.

The two laws include sections barring anyone who has provided “material support” to “terrorist organizations” from entering the United States. By criminalizing broadly defined “material support,” the laws prohibit the admission of people who have, even under coercion, provided any kind of financial, physical and material aid to members of a wide range of organizations involved in armed resistance to any national government.

CONFLICT IN SRI LANKA SLOWS, HALTS AID WORK

ROME (CNS) — Conflict in Sri Lanka has slowed Caritas Sri Lanka aid work and has caused some projects to be suspended, the agency said.

The agency reported March 13 that violence in the country has made it too dangerous to continue tsunami reconstruction in some areas.

Fighting between the government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam has killed tens of thousands of people since 1983, when the rebels demanded autonomy for areas in northern and eastern Sri Lanka.

DIPLOMAT HOPES FOR BETTER CHINA RELATIONS

COLUMBUS, Ohio (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI's top diplomat at the United Nations said the Vatican wants to normalize relations with China, which it sees as a major way of advancing religious freedom and fostering unity among Chinese Catholics.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the Vatican's U.N. nuncio ex-



Tamara Tirado/Catholic Courier

Sixteen-year-old Gloria Klosterman, a parishioner of Church of the Holy Spirit in Penfield, gets some opinions on a blouse at Fashion Bug in Webster March 13. Fashion Bug is one of three area stores providing clothes for Gloria and other teens to model during the April 1 Pure Fashion show, which highlights modest dress.

Teens match fashion, modesty

Amy Kotlarz/Catholic Courier

Don't look for any miniskirts in this fashion show.

Bare midriffs are out. Necklines don't plunge, cleavage is kept under wraps and underwear is never used as outerwear.

The goal of the Pure Fashion show, which will be held from 1 to 4:30 p.m. April 1 at the Rochester Institute of Technology Inn and Conference Center, is to show teenage girls how to dress fashionably, but not provocatively. In a word, its aim is modesty.

Carmen Ana Klosterman, one of the organizers of the fashion show and a parishioner of Church of the Holy Spirit in Penfield, said it can be difficult to find clothing at some stores that isn't too skimpy. The models, who range in age from 12 to

19, have had success in part by layering clothes, she said.

“It's still hard, but the point of Pure Fashion is to go to the store and come up with a cute outfit that's still modest,” Klosterman said.

The show is expected to draw 400 attendees and will include a live auction with Carol Ritter Wright, tea, a parade of fashions modeled by 17 young women and guests including Lidia Goldsmith, Mrs. New York America 2006; Christian musician Marie Miller; and Joanne Cercone, executive director and producer of the Mrs. New York America Pageant and the fashion show's emcee. Fashions are provided by Fashion Bug, David's Bridal and Deb's. Last year's fashion show at McQuaid Jesuit High School sold out, so this year the show moved to the larger venue, organizers said.

The show is part of a national Pure Fashion program, which is affiliated with the Catholic movement Regnum Christi, but participants hail from several denominations. During the training program for models, participants were taught etiquette, public speaking, makeup application and modeling. The program is being run in partnership with the Mrs. New York America Pageant.

“It helps to give them tools to develop into young women who will have morals, values and self-esteem, and who will be able to share that with others,” said Cercone, who is part of the fashion show's leadership and executive committee. “I'm teaching them and giving them tools to be the very best from the inside out.”

Cercone said it's challenging, but

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OUR LADY OF MERCY TO HOST OPEN HOUSE

Our Lady of Mercy High School will host a spring open house at the school, 1437 Blossom Road, Brighton, from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 1.

Prospective students and families are invited to tour the school and meet Mercy students, parents, faculty and staff. For details, call 585/288-7129, ext. 310.

CYO SET TO EXPAND ITS SOFTBALL LEAGUES

CYO Athletics is looking to expand its softball leagues.

The program offers two spring softball leagues, including one for seventh- and eighth-grade girls and one for seventh- and eighth-grade boys. Forms for team registrations are available at www.dor.org and are due by March 30. Registration is \$200 per team. Games will start April 23. For details, call Jack Skvorak at 585/328-3210, ext. 1279, or 315/986-1550.

DONATIONS NEEDED TO HELP FLOOD VICTIMS

Nine months after summer flooding devastated towns in Tioga County, many residents still are unable to move back home and are living with relatives or in emergency-housing trailers.

Staff from Rochester's Providence Housing Development Corp. and LeCesse Construction Company of Henrietta will donate a week of their time beginning March 26 to rebuild homes in Owego, Nichols and Apalachin. Up to a dozen homes will be repaired at no cost to homeowners.

Providence Housing is seeking cash donations, sponsorships to help defray costs and donated gift cards from such building-supply stores as The Home Depot and Lowe's. For details, call 585/328-3210.

FASHION

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not impossible, to dress fashionably and modestly in today's society, which she said promotes female sexuality and promiscuity at all ages. As a Christian, Cercone said she believes the fashion show gives her a chance to use her God-given talents to help promote self-respect in young women.

"They learned a great deal about who they were, and it helped them become more who they want to be and how they fit in," Cercone said of last year's participants.

Several Atlanta mothers, fed up with the skimpy fashions they saw teens wearing, started Pure Fashion in a church hall in 1999. The group's Web site (www.purefashion.com) lists guidelines of modest dress, including making sure that clothes don't expose added skin when a girl walks or sits.

Although young women are the focus of the fashion show, Klosterman said she thinks it may set a positive example for young men, too.



Tamara Tirado/Catholic Courier

Fourteen-year-old Chelsea Parkes, a parishioner of Holy Family Church in Syracuse, tries on a pair of earrings March 13 at Fashion Bug in Webster in preparation for her participation in the April 1 Pure Fashion show.

"How many times do you hear, 'Can you please pull up your pants?'" Klosterman said. "That's one of the things I tell the girls. You

are the ones that set the standard."

EDITOR'S NOTE: For details on Pure Fashion, call 585/225-5759.

Groups to perform concerts at St. Andrew Church

Amy Kotlarz/Catholic Courier

The first time Donald Messina heard the musical piece "Stabat Mater" by Gioacchino Rossini, he listened to about 30 seconds and then set it aside.

It wasn't until he played the CD a second time that he began to appreciate it.

"I was totally overwhelmed by its beauty, and completely captivated by it," Messina said.

Now Messina has been moved to design a concert and worship service with meditations on several pieces of music, including "Stabat Mater." The event will be at 3 p.m. April 1 at St. Andrew Church, 923 Portland Ave. in Rochester.

The concert will be the second of two in as many weeks at the church. The Chamber Singers of State University New York College at Geneseo will perform music from their 2007 Italian Concert Tour at 3 p.m.

Sunday, March 25, at St. Andrew.

Directed by Gerard Floriano, the Geneseo chorus will sing works by Monteverdi, di Lasso, Whitacre and others ranging from classical to folk music.

Messina said he hopes the April 1 concert will give something spiritual back to the church, which has since 2003 hosted biannual concerts featuring the Eastman-Leung Chamber Orchestra. Messina is the orchestra's conductor and the parish's concert planner.

"I came up with a complete program of narrative and reflective music that reflects the lives and events of Jesus and Mary and Joseph on Holy Thursday and Good Friday," he said.

The orchestra is named after David Leung, who assembled the musicians and who serves as its concertmaster and music librarian. Messina and Leung met in 2002 at an Eastman School of Music con-

cert, where Leung led a small ensemble in a choir concert. Messina introduced himself and asked for Leung's help in putting together a concert at St. Andrew, which resulted in the formation of the Eastman-Leung Chamber Orchestra.

The April 1 concert will include several vocal soloists and the choral group Chorus Novus. All instrumentalists in the ensemble are graduates of or undergraduate students at Eastman School of Music. The concert will be the first time the orchestra has played alongside a choir, Leung said.

"My goal is to blend in the highest form possible the beauty of the music and the beauty of the worship all into one event," said Messina, who is the orchestra's conductor.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Admission to both concerts is free; donations will be accepted. For details, call 585/266-7030.