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Mother Teresa Home opens doors and arms to homeless mothers

BY PATRICK J. BUECHI
Staff Reporter

When Cheryl Calire unlocked the door to the former St. Adalbert rectory, she opened a new life for women and their babies. Through the Mother Teresa Home, she will offer a roof over the heads for homeless women who have chosen to raise their babies.

The pastoral mission of the Mother Teresa Home is to promote the safety, stability and well-being of women who have experienced or been exposed to pressure in regards to their pregnancy.

Calire, the director of the diocesan Department of Pro-Life Activities, and her team will work to provide a homey atmosphere for up to five guests and their children at the house. Guests will be expected to do their part in cleaning and cooking when they are not working on bettering their lives.

During the day, Sarah Molitor will watch over the residents. As assistant coordinator of the Mother Teresa Home, her main job will be to connect the guests to government services, educational programs and job placement.

"Everything from bus routes to setting up parenting classes to working with them on Bible studies that we will be having in the evenings," Molitor said of her duties.

Fresh from graduating from Franciscan University of Steubenville, Molitor wanted to put her social work degree to good use in the Church. Her

mother read about the Mother Teresa Home and brought it to her attention.

"I was looking at entry-level social work positions, but I was itching to work for the Church as well, because I didn't want to compromise my beliefs. In social work, it's a liberal-leaning field sometimes," Molitor said. "Seeing the Mother Teresa Home's mission looking through its Facebook page, I knew I needed to be a part of that. I wanted to help women. My heart's always been there for women."

Interestingly, Molitor crossed paths with Calire six years ago, when the then-teen worked with the Beggars for Life, a group of pro-life teenagers and kids who collected 1 million pennies to show the value of the smallest things.

Also on the Home team will be Deacon Steve Schumer and his wife, Mary, with the staff of the diocesan Office of Pro-Life Activities pitching in where needed. Calire and her husband, David, will live at the home to be with the guests at night.

Calire expects residents to come in while pregnant and stay six to 18 months. During this time, they will be enrolled in vocational school, a GED program or college, or working during the day. Calire stresses the concept of home and community. By contributing to the household, residents can benefit. As a rewards system, residents will earn points for doing the work they are expected to do. Points can be redeemed for furniture or cookery when it is time for them to leave.



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The staff of the Mother Teresa House, Emerson Stevens (left to right), Sarah Molitor, Director Cheryl Calire, Cheryl Zielen-Ersing and Miriam Escalante, welcomed their first residents in September.

"From the day a woman moves into our place, Sarah and I are putting together a plan for them to move out, not to be construed as a punitive measure. The whole idea of the program is to help them be able to get on their

own two feet; to have that dignity to know, yes, they can do it," Calire said.

"Mostly through empowerment, not just enabling them. We want to specifically empower them," added

See Helping mothers page 27



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show mercy because
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P O P E F R A N C I S

RESPECT LIFE 2016

ON MAY 13, 1846, THE BISHOPS OF AMERICA CHOSE OUR LADY IN HER IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AS PATRONESS OF THE UNITED STATES. IN A DECREE ISSUED IN 1847 POPE PIUS IX APPROVED THIS CONSECRATION, AND ON DECEMBER 8, 1854 HE PROCLAIMED THE DOGMA OF MARY'S IMMACULATE CONCEPTION.

ON MAY 13, 1917, OUR LADY APPEARED TO THREE CHILDREN IN FATIMA, PORTUGAL, THE FIRST OF SIX MONTHLY APPEARANCES CULMINATING, ON OCTOBER 13, IN THE DRAMATIC "MIRACLE OF THE SUN." MARY ANNOUNCED AT FATIMA, "JESUS WISHES TO ESTABLISH IN THE WORLD DEVOTION TO MY IMMACULATE HEART," AND ASKED FOR REPENTANCE AND THAT WE PRAY THE ROSARY DAILY, FOR PEACE. SHE CALLED FOR THE CONSECRATION OF RUSSIA TO HER IMMACULATE HEART, AND ASSURED THE SEERS: "IN THE END, MY IMMACULATE HEART WILL TRIUMPH. THE HOLY FATHER WILL CONSECRATE RUSSIA TO ME, AND SHE WILL BE CONVERTED, AND A PERIOD OF PEACE WILL BE GRANTED TO THE WORLD."

ON DECEMBER 8, 1947, MARY ENTERED THE U.S.A. TRIUMPHALLY FROM CANADA, REPRESENTED BY THE WESTERN PILGRIM VIRGIN STATUE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA, WHICH STILL TRAVELS THE WORLD TO PROMOTE OUR LADY'S MESSAGES OF SALVATION, HOPE AND PEACE. NEARLY 200,000 PEOPLE LINED BUFFALO'S STREETS TO WELCOME OUR LADY, AND HER STATUE WAS CROWNED THAT DAY IN A GLORIOUS CEREMONY IN ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL BY BUFFALO'S BISHOP JOHN O'HARA.

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE ARCH OF TRIUMPH OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, IN UNION WITH OUR LADY'S BLUE ARMY (WAFUSA.ORG), DESIRES TO COMMEMORATE FITTINGLY THE COMING 170TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICA'S CONSECRATION, THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FATIMA, AND THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARY'S TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO AMERICA AT BUFFALO. TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF OUR PLANS, OR TO OFFER YOUR TALENTS AND TIME TO OUR LADY FOR THIS PURPOSE, EMAIL 2017@ARCHOFTRIUMPH.ORG, OR CALL 1-866-205-6512.

JOIN US IN BUILDING THE Arch of Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and INTERNATIONAL SHRINE OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS



EWTN Foundress Mother M. Angelica has donated personally to build Mary's Arch of Triumph, requesting the inscription, "**Mother M. Angelica and her Nuns.**"

"[T]ruly in keeping with the great hopes of the new millennium.... It would inspire others to become part of the pro-life movement."

— Fr. Matthew Habiger, OSB
Former President, Priests for Life

"I am confident that [Our Lord and His Blessed Mother] will use this arch for the Triumph of their Sacred and Immaculate Hearts and for the conversion of our culture."

— Prof. Peter J. Kreeft, Ph.D.

"Be assured of my prayers and my willingness to [help] bring this vision to reality."

— Fr. Frank A. Pavone
Founder, Priests for Life



The First Great Shrine of the New Millennium—and a powerful initiative for the Culture of Life and Civilization of Love! This great, triumphal arch, to be built on the U.S.A.—Canada border in Buffalo NY, at 700 feet (70 stories) will be the world's tallest monument. It will hail and commemorate the coming TRIUMPH of the IMMACULATE HEART of MARY, prophesied by Mary herself at Fatima in 1917. Mary's triumphal Arch will include three chapels (Sacred Heart, Immaculate Heart, and at the top, Chapel of the Triumph), an illuminated 650-foot high cross formed by an elevator bank and a 500-foot high observation deck, plus a 680-foot high observation area. This supremely glorious tribute to Mary's purity, faithfulness and obedience to God, will be a beacon of need of guidance and direction.



The International Shrine of the Holy Innocents will feature a large mural of OUR LADY, QUEEN OF ANGELS, presenting her Divine Son to the world as the INFANT PRINCE of PEACE, and a monumental HOLY FAMILY grouping in a spacious forecourt ringed with marble columns topped by lintels proclaiming the beautiful titles of Our Blessed Mother.

Mary also revealed at Fatima, "*God wishes to establish in the world, devotion to my Immaculate Heart.*" This globally important shrine, which millions will visit annually, will propagate that vital devotion, call attention to the plight of the innocent unborn, and lovingly promote the family. Like the early Israelites who gave abundantly to build the Desert Tabernacle (Exodus ch. 36), Mary's many loving children, across the U.S.A., Canada, and the world, will build this great tribute to Our Queen, and powerful affirmation of the Sanctity of Life! *Please join us, and please help spread the word!*

Visit us on the Web at www.archoftriumph.org!

Build the Culture of Life!

For more information, and to be a part of this historic undertaking for Jesus and Mary and their innocent unborn, visit www.archoftriumph.org, or call 1-866-205-6512.

*Mother of the Word Incarnate,
Pray For Us!*



Buffalo lawyer wants massive monument to Mary

By **PATRICK J. BUECHI**
Staff Reporter

It took 16 years for land to be found on which to build the Sagrada Familia in Barcelona. Construction on the gothic and art nouveau basilica began in 1882 and is expected to be complete in 2026. So, Laurence Behr doesn't think his project is moving too slowly.

Behr, founder of Western New York Lawyers for Life, had a dream of an arch monument to rival St. Louis. The Arch of Triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and International Shrine of the Holy Innocents, measuring 70 stories tall, would stand on Buffalo's waterfront as a monument to Mary's prophecies at Fatima, delivered nearly 100 years ago.

Now, 16 years since the project was launched, Behr still holds onto that dream, feeling the \$100 million arch will be built when ready.

"People all over the world fell in love with this idea. I got letters from people from all parts of the world," he said. "It's not a hard thing to raise money for, if you have millions of people all over the world who potentially interested in supporting it." Much like the Sagrada Familia, the project still has no land to build on 16 years after its conception. "We don't have land. I initially believed that it should go out here on our waterfront," Behr said.

He has received letters of support from the Priests for Life, the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life and Human Life International.

Behr would also like to have a diocesan celebration to mark the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions. In 1917, three shepherd children received visits and messages from Mary over six months in Fatima, Portugal. The Vatican has declared the visions "worthy of belief" in 1930.

Although born and raised Catholic, Behr drifted away from the Church in his teens. He had a conversion experience at the age of 21 and began to read about Mary and her apparitions at Fatima. At her last visit on Oct. 13, 1917, Mary

announced that, "Jesus wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart."

A lawyer for 36 years, Behr, 65, has tried to carry his faith into his legal practice.

"I've always been receptive to living Catholic values as a lawyer and letting my light shine in my work as a lawyer," he said.

Around 1987, while working at a large law firm, he took on the case of a group of students at McKinley High School in Buffalo who wanted to hold an afterschool Bible study. The Board of Education denied permission, citing separation of church and state. Behr found that Congress had passed a statute called the Equal Access Act, which stated that if a school allowed any non-curricular gatherings, equal access had to be granted for all non-curricular gatherings, including religious groups. The case made the front page of *The Buffalo News*. Behr's actions garnered an apology from Buffalo's then-mayor, Jimmy Griffin.

When law professors at the University of Buffalo wanted to host a Roe v. Wade seminar, Behr met with some other lawyers with an interest in the pro-life cause and formed Western New York Lawyers for Life. They made the Erie County Bar Association cancel the seminar.

He also defended members of Operation Rescue who were arrested during the Spring of Life demonstration in Buffalo and Amherst.

Currently, he is considering how to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Fatima apparitions, and the 70th anniversary of the Western Virgin Pilgrim Statue coming to Buffalo. Sister Lucia, one of the three



DAN CAPPELLAZZO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

President of Western New York Lawyers for Life Laurence Behr is also the executive director of the Arch of Triumph of Immaculate Heart of Mary.

children who saw the apparitions in Fatima, commissioned this statue, which John Haffert, founder of Blue Army, brought to Buffalo. In one of his autobiographies, "To Shake the World," Haffert told how the first pilgrim virgin statue to enter the United States did so through Niagara Falls and Buffalo. "He explained how, because he was refused permission to bring it into New York City, he sought permission from Buffalo's bishop, John O'Hara at the time, and that bishop welcomed Our Lady with open arms. The statue was brought in across the Rainbow Bridge from Canada and crowned in a tremendous celebration at (St. Joseph's New) cathedral here. There were 200,000 people, the papers said at the time. They lined the streets to welcome Our Lady," Behr said, adding that the statue coming to Buffalo reaffirms his plans for building the triumphal arch in the Queen City.

His love of the Fatima image comes

from the simple fact that he is Catholic.

"I've been interested in Fatima since learning about it. As a devout Catholic, it is an extremely important aspect of our faith. The Blessed Mother, the Mother of Jesus appears to shepherd children in Fatima. Tremendous miracles occur. The Church said this is worthy of belief. The question is, any Catholic should answer it for themselves – Why aren't you interested in Fatima. That's how I see it. Everyone should be deeply interested in Fatima."

He began reading more on the subject in 1995. Then, in September 2000, he had a dream of the triumphal Golden Arch of St. Mary and made the connection with Fatima and Mary's prophecy that, in the end, her immaculate heart would triumph and the world would know a certain period of peace.

For more information on the arch, visit archoftriumph.org.