



Cast members of City Streets are in the mood for making music in Manhattan Square Park.

'Upstairs'... Its Birth and Growth

Back in 1975, Father David P. Simon, the newly-appointed co-pastor of St. Augustine's Church, and Sister Sheila Walsh, Religious Education coordinator for St. Monica's Church, developed an idea of involving youths of both parishes in putting on a musical.

The show was called "Memories" and was performed at St. Agnes High School auditorium. The profit came to about \$3,000 - each parish school getting \$1,000 and the remaining third to be used as seed money for a future show.

The following year, "Good News," an original show, raised \$4,000. Mulling over such success, the two parish staffs decided to establish a youth ministry for the southwest area of Rochester.

After discussions, research and community con-

tacts, a proposal went to the diocese and in July 1977, the Urban Ministry Office granted St. Augustine's and St. Monica's \$7,500 to establish a youth ministry. At the same time, St. Monica's received a \$39,000 CETA grant to pay three workers to fix the second floor of St. Monica's school where the youth ministry would be located. Thus, "Upstairs" came to be.

Kurt Eyrich and Anthony Falzano were hired as parttime youth ministers in September of 1977. In February 1978, with the cooperation of St. Augustine's, Upstairs received another CETA grant and Edward Johnson was hired to be fulltime recreation director. Using St. Monica's gym, he offered such activities as open gym, women-oriented physical fitness classes and basketball leagues.

Over the years, activities have included roller skating parties, dinners, disco, retreats, local trips to

Rochester Planetarium, hockey games, the circus and swimming events at city recreation centers.

Trips also took place to Niagara Falls and Toronto.

In May, 1978, another original musical, "Prophets," raised \$1,100. In July of that year, the Urban Ministry Office granted Upstairs \$10,000 for continued development.

In August of 1978, Anthony Falzano was hired fulltime by both parishes to organize a solid foundation for youth ministry.

The development of the youth ministry continues to evolve to this day. Many new services and programs are being developed and funding is being sought for a fulltime recreation director. Upstairs expansion also is planned.

Not losing sight of the source of all this progress, original musicals, another, "City Lights," is being presented at Monroe High School April 27-28 and May 4-5.



In the Upstairs Youth Ministry are, from left to right, Calvin Satterfield, Larry Havens, Ann Havens, Sonia Satterfield, Anthony Falzano, Upstairs youth director, and Michael Kelly.



Discussing a bit of staging are, from left, Robert Havens, Danny Lynch, Anthony Falzano, Terri Knaap, Monica Rife, Sister Sheila Walsh, Carl Teabout, Barbara Neu (associate producer of the show), Eric Falla (publicity director of the show), and Brian Hoey.

Photos By
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