

Parish Finds Stewardship a Formula for Success

By Martin Toombs
Southern Tier Editor

Owego — Wanted: A formula to increase volunteers in the parish, increase interest in new parish groups, cause spiritual benefits, generally increase parish spirit, and, coincidentally, increase weekly offertory collections.

St. Patrick's Parish found that formula last year when they began the Stewardship program with the assistance of the diocese. Now they are involved in their second campaign, and they don't expect it to be their last.

St. Patrick's co-pastors, Father Thomas Watts and Father Albert Cason, and the campaign's lay leaders will list the benefits they see from last year's effort, if you have the time to listen.

Two couples, Pat and Dick Franz and Joan and Bob Dizer headed the program last year. Joining them this year are Barb and Howard Enkling, who will head the program next year with another couple new to the chairmanship. The idea is for a new couple to learn the jobs one year, and teach the next.

Probably more than 200

volunteers will be involved this year. They will visit about 900 parish families on the Sundays of Oct. 14 and 21.

The personal visit is important, they noted. Father Cason said that for some, it was the first time someone representing the Church had visited them. That provided an opportunity for some to express their disapproval of changes in the Church. Father Watts noted that for some, having someone listen to their concerns was important. On the follow up, he added, he saw persons who, after having said what was on their mind, were willing to listen. Father Cason noted that some of those persons are attending Mass again; others are closer to doing so.

Interest expressed on Stewardship cards was sufficient to start a convert class, they said, and seven persons were baptized.

Also added following the drive was a Bible study class for adults on Sundays during the children's classes. Attendance at religious education classes also increased, Mrs. Enkling said.

A Buildings and Grounds

Committee, which had gone out of existence, was reformed, and took the lead this past summer when the old cafeteria in the school was renovated for use as a kindergarten.

The Stewardship drive also increased both the number of persons distributing Communion to shut-ins on Sundays, and the number receiving Communion at home, Father Watts added.

Mrs. Dizer commented that the greatest benefit was the "parish spirit" that grew from the Stewardship effort.

Mrs. Dizer noted that the "help from the diocese was invaluable," and that they "knew they could get help with a phone call" to the diocese.

Father Cason reported that of the "three T's," Time, Talent and Treasure, last year the drive purposely down-played the treasure segment. But true to predictions that families involved in their parish will support it financially, the collections went up anyway.

This year, Father Cason noted, they will treat



Looking over plans for the upcoming Stewardship Sundays at St. Patrick's Parish are, from left, sitting, Pat Franz, Joan Dizer and Father Cason; standing, Barb Enkling and Father Watts.

"treasure" as equal to the other two, but not any more important.

Asked if they intend to

continue the program in future years, the priests and workers had no hesitation in answering yes. The work being done on the program

makes it obvious that the intention is that Stewardship will be a permanent part of parish life at St. Patrick's.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY NEW YORK STATE DIVISION, INC.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY UNIT

WHERE: KELSEY FIELD

WHEN: OCTOBER 20, 11:00 A.M.

GENESEO, N.Y.

RUN FOR HOPE — It is a Run — NOT A RACE, but a well organized fun run. It is open to all people who would like to get out there and run, jog or walk and at the same time raise money for the American Cancer Society.

To Register: Fill out form A and return to 23 Main St., Geneseo, N.Y.

Additional pledge cards may be obtained by contacting the Cancer Society office in Geneseo, New York 14454 — 243-3415.

Be sure to fill out your size for T-Shirt.
FREE T-shirts to first 200 pre registered runners.

RUN FOR HOPE

SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR:

- Runners collecting \$50.00 or more in pledges.
- Three runners collecting most money.
- Oldest male and female runners.
- Youngest male and female runners.
- Company with most runners.
- School with most runners.
- Family with most runners.
- Runner with most individual sponsors.
- Most unusual attire.
- Youngest and oldest wheelchair roller.

BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK
Honorary Chairman

★ SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS ★

- FREE B.P. CHECK
- MEDICAL AID STATION
- POST RACE REFRESHMENTS
- MAGIC SHOW
- BAKE SALE
- MERCHANDISE FOR RUNNERS
- ANTIQUA PACE CAR
- LOLLIPOPS

RUNNER'S COPY				OFFICE COPY			
Use this section to collect from your sponsors and bring it with your contributions to the designated collection point(s).				Please hand in this section to the Registration Table at the Starting Point before you begin your run.			
(Please Print) RUNNER'S NAME		PHONE #		(Please Print) RUNNER'S NAME		PHONE #	
ADDRESS		ZIP CODE		ADDRESS		ZIP CODE	
Run Validated By:		Total Length of Run		List sponsors and pledge per mile/KM on both B and C Section		Total Length of Run	
		Miles/KM				Miles/KM	
(Please Print) SPONSORS NAME		ADDRESS	PLEDGE PER MILE/KM	TOTAL AMT. COLLECTED	(Please Print) SPONSORS NAME		ADDRESS
					PLEDGE PER MILE/KM	TOTAL AMT. PLEDGED	

BRING OR MAIL SECTION A TO YOUR LOCAL UNIT OF THE AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY IN ORDER TO REGISTER FOR THE RUN. YOU MUST SIGN THIS WAIVER IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE. In consideration of my entry, being accepted, intending to be legally bound, I do hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, assignors, assigns, and assigns, waive, release and forever discharge any and all rights for claims and damages, which may hereafter accrue to me against the American Cancer Society, Run For Hope Program, officers, members, games director and or agents damages which may be sustained and suffered by me in connection with my association with or entry in this American Cancer Society. Run For Hope.

SIGNATURE _____
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
DATE _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____
T-shirt size _____
Are you a wheelchair participant? _____
Please pre register _____

RUN FOR HOPE