



Jeff Goulding/Courier-Journal

Tanya Parmalee and her classmates provide liturgical dance during St. Lawrence School's Easter Pageant on March 24. This is the fifth production of the pageant, which is presented every two years.

## 'Kingdom of Hearts' rule St. Lawrence Pageant

By Richard A. Kiley

The 1986 St. Lawrence School Pageant entertained more than 600 people last Monday night with a brilliant mix of traditional hymns and modern hits which illustrated the Passion and teachings of Jesus.

The mass production, entitled "Kingdom of Hearts," was the school's fifth pageant in 10 years.

Sister Diane Dennie, designated as the "director of everything" in the pageant's program, said the production served as a good teaching medium for children as well as the parents, and that the pageant's success was, to say the least, a group effort.

"The kids get a lot of Scripture in their heads from doing this, and they pass it on to the parents," the principal of St. Lawrence said. "The whole faculty worked on the pageant and the parents were great too. They built the set, helped with the music, baked the bread."

Three-hundred children from grades one through eight performed and sang in the production which incorporated appropriate modern hits such as "Say You, Say Me," when Jesus was saying good-bye to his followers and "That's What Friends Are For," as Jesus, portrayed by Joe Duggan, performed acts of both spiritual and physical healing.

Other leading performers were Lisa Bellavia as Sarah, Ryan Frisk as Jacob, and Dennis Smith as Peter.

A speaking chorus of youth narrated the presentation and both actors and actresses mimed and gestured in accordance with dialogue coming from loud speakers so all could hear.

Symbolism was depicted throughout the pageant with the effective use of lighting and

props. In the opening scene, the dark church gradually brightened as Duggan (Jesus) made his way to the stage. Near the end of the 90-minute presentation, solemn music combined with a spotlight on a giant cross served as an eerie representation of Jesus' crucifixion.

The "Kids of the Kingdom" donned little red hearts and chanted "Jesus Will Rise Again" in celebration and anticipation of the Second Coming. It was followed by a

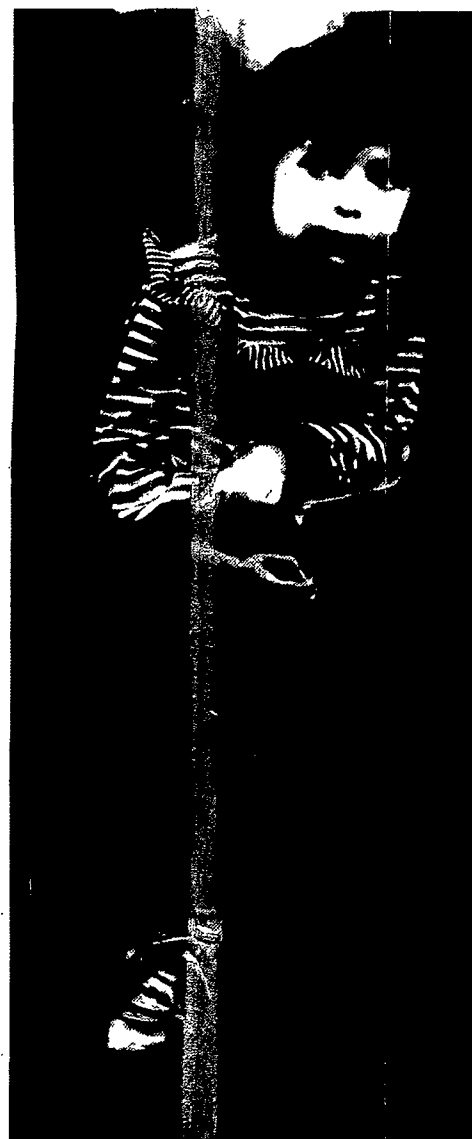
variation of the theme song for the hit series "Fame."

The crowd of parents and friends showed their appreciation for the efforts of all involved in the pageant with a resounding standing ovation at the pageant's conclusion.

Virginia Wright conducted the adult group of volunteer musicians, and Sister Concepta and Dolores Fischer directed the choir of "Little Kid Singers." The speaking chorus was directed by Louise Baker.



Eighth-grader Tom Borrelli portrays a blind man healed by Christ (Joe Duggan) as described in a gospel story.



Diane Sousa, 4, leans over a pew to get a better look at "A Kingdom of Hearts" being enacted on stage.

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