

St. Louis parishioners build a playground and community



Parishioners at St. Louis Church, Pittsford, worked together on the weekend of April 26-27 to build a new playground for the parish school.

Parents, students and parishioners at St. Louis Parish in Pittsford combined a celebration with a whole lot of work April 26 through April 27.

During those four days, the school's 310 students and as many as 300 parents toiled from dawn to dark, transforming the convent's backyard into the school's first-ever playground.

Nonetheless, when it was all over Sister Miriam Nugent, the principal, called it "just the most marvelous experience that ever was."

Designed by Ithaca architect Robert Leathers, the playground has been in the planning stage for a full year. Parents first sought approval from the Pittsford village board, then began assembling donations and materials both in and outside the parish.

Students at the school helped by raising money through the Catholic School Marathon last year and a magazine drive last November.

With the funds they raised, planners bought the lumber and hardware, along with one slide. The other — a circular slide — was a Christmas present from an anonymous donor, according to Sister Miriam.

Thanks to donations and volunteers, the playground, which was valued at \$65-70,000, only cost the school \$20,000.

In preparation for the assembly, foremen had to be designated for the project as well as chairmen to organize such essentials as food, tools and childcare.

"I couldn't comprehend fully what a gigantic undertaking it was until I saw it," Sister Miriam said.

On Wednesday, April 25, the children held a prayer service to ask that work on the playground proceed smoothly with good weather and no injuries.

Work began Thursday promptly at 7 a.m. and continued Friday and Saturday until well after dark.

"There isn't anybody there who doesn't work — you learn very quickly," said Sister



Jeremy Jarmuz, 9, sands boards to be used in building the playground. Sanding was one of the major tasks among children who participated in the construction project.

Children of all ages pitched in to wash tires and paint them with sealer, serve meals and snacks, shovel and rake gravel and haul and sand wood. "We counted 36 splinters one day," Sister Miriam said.

On Sunday at 6:30 p.m., work was finally completed and the exhausted participants stood back to contemplate their handiwork.

During the opening ceremony Sunday evening, children sang "This is the Day the Lord has made" and released red and white balloons into the air. Later on, close to 300 adults celebrated a Victory Dinner.

"It was more than just having a playground," Sister Miriam concluded. "The big, big emphasis was on community."

Bishop to ordain James Jaeger to priesthood



A deacon-intern at Holy Name of Jesus Parish, the Rev. Mr. James P. Jaeger, will be ordained a priest of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rochester by Bishop Matthew H. Clark on Saturday, May 17.

His ordination will be celebrated at 11 a.m. in the Church of the Holy Name of Jesus, St. Martin's Way. A reception will follow.

The son of James and Mary Jane Jaeger of Canandaigua, Jaeger attended St. Mary's

Grammar School and the Canandaigua Senior Academy. After earning an associate's degree in retailing and business management from the Community College of the Finger Lakes in 1978, he entered Becket Hall Minor Seminary at St. John Fisher College and earned a bachelor of arts degree in religious studies.

During the 1980/81 school year, Jaeger taught theology at Good Shepherd School in Henrietta. He then entered Immaculate Conception Seminary at Seton Hall University, earning his master's degree in divinity in 1985.

While attending Immaculate Conception, Jaeger was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Air Force Chaplain Candidate Program. He has served as a chaplain in the reserves at Minot, N.D., and MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Fla.

During his seminary years he also did field work at Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck, N.J., the Hackensack, N.J. jail, and the Veteran's Administration Hospital in Lyons, N.J. He completed his clinical pastoral education at the Nashville, Tenn., Veteran's Administration Medical Center.

Jaeger was ordained a deacon by Bishop Clark June 1, 1985, at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

On Pentecost Sunday, May 18, Father Jaeger will celebrate a solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at 3 p.m. in his home parish, St. Mary's, Canandaigua. A parish reception will follow.



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