



Babette G. Augustin-Staff photographer  
As the cast concludes its performance of "A Christmas Carol" at St. Bridget's Church, audience members look toward the Rev. Elijah Stevens and other choir members wrapping up the show with a joyful rendition of "We wish you a Merry Christmas."

## Minister

Continued from page 13

lege in the Adirondack region, Stevens said he pastored a church in Forty Fort, Pa., for several years. Hindsight shows that his first Christmas sermon presaged the direction his life would later take. In the sermon, he recalled pointing out that although Christ claimed to be the King of Kings, he identified with common people and with those who had nothing.

"I said that we as people have to care about those who don't have with that which we do have," he said.

In 1977, Stevens married and took a hiatus from ministry, moving to Virginia to sell encyclopedias door-to-door. Several years later, he returned to Pennsylvania and attended Wilkes College to study information systems. In 1983, he moved to Texas and sold custom-made clothing for several years. His wife stayed behind, however, and the distance eventually finished off their marriage.

Returning to New York and "the Lord's work," Stevens taught in a Long Island Bible school and got involved with a Christian outreach program to homeless people, "skin-heads," people with AIDS and other residents of Greenwich Village.

The homeless people he encountered in New York City are "totally different" than those Stevens has come to know in Rochester. "These people (Rochester's homeless) are not mentally broken," he said. "Most of these guys want to work. It's economics, not vice that's the reason for these people (being homeless)."

St. Bridget's vividly illustrated how much their shelter guests have to offer last weekend by featuring several, including Stevens, in the chorus of an elaborate Christmas production.

While Stevens hopes next Christmas won't find him living in a shelter, he doesn't expect changed circumstances will cause him to abandon the work he has begun. "I would like to be somewhere doing the exact same thing I am doing now ... to still be with those who have nothing," he said.



### You Have Touched So Many Lives With Your Unselfish Love.

WE THANK YOU... IN THE NAME OF OUR MISSIONARIES AND THE PEOPLE OF GOD THEY SERVE IN EVERY AREA OF LATIN AMERICA, AFRICA, THE SOUTH PACIFIC AND ASIA... FOR HELPING US TOUCH THE WORLD WITH GOD'S UNSELFISH LOVE DURING THE PAST YEAR. WE PRAY THAT CHRIST WILL BE THE REAL LIGHT, JOY AND PEACE OF YOUR LIFE NOW AND THROUGHOUT THE NEW YEAR!



**DIOCESAN MISSIONS OFFICE**  
The Society For The Propagation of The Faith  
The Holy Childhood Association  
Latin American Missions

**BISHOP MATTHEW H. CLARK**  
**FR. ROBERT C. BRADLER,**

Diocesan Director  
1150 Buffalo Rd., Rochester, N.Y. 14624 436-9200  
**DIOCESAN STAFF:**

Josephine Bartolomeo

Margaret Wafer

Did Someone Condemn Your Furnace???

## CALL THE MASTERS

If your furnace does not need replacing, we won't recommend you do. If **"THE MASTERS"** can't fix it and you're a Courier subscriber, **NO CHARGE** for the service call.

- Residential - Commercial
- Prompt, Reliable, Courteous 24 Hour Service
- Heating, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration
- Over 20 Years Experience
- Special Senior Citizen Discounts

### FALL FURNACE INSPECTION

- ✓ Heat Exchanger
  - ✓ Electrical Components
  - ✓ Adjust all Controls
  - ✓ Adjust Flame Composition
  - ✓ Belts & Filters
- \$32.95** regularly \$42.95

SAVE \$10.00

SAVE \$10.00

20% Off Humidifier Installation or Replacement

CALL TODAY

**MASTER-TEMP**

**865-6330**  
**24 HOURS**