

## Youths follow in Christ's steps with living stations

By Sean McNamara  
Freelance writer

FAIRPORT — Youths at two churches in Fairport brought the Stations of the Cross to life last weekend.

Jim Marra, 17, found out that walking in the steps of Christ is not easy. Marra portrayed Jesus during the living stations, which were performed by youths at Church of the Assumption and Church of the Resurrection last weekend.

"It felt as if I was carrying my own cross," Marra said. "I was able to realize what he went through for our sake and I learned that I am very human. It made me realize what I go through daily is rough, but it's nothing in comparison to what he did for us."

Darren Classen, 15, who portrayed Simon, said the depiction of the Passion of Christ "makes it more like a personal thing. It helped me get a feel for what actually happened."

The living stations are a "gift to the parish," according to Marie Claus, the youth minister at Assumption Church.

"It brings the stations alive to the kids. If they can see the walk Jesus took in their own way, they can relate to it," she said.

The stations were just one aspect of a 24-hour fast which took place at Assumption with teens from both parishes.

Marra said he participated in the fast "because it is during the Lenten season. It is giving of yourself, like Christ's fast in the desert."

This marked the fifth year of the fast.

Donations benefitted Park Ridge Hospital's Chemical Dependency Unit. Claus, who works at the hospital as a volunteer, said the money will be used to help teens pay for treatment at the hospital.

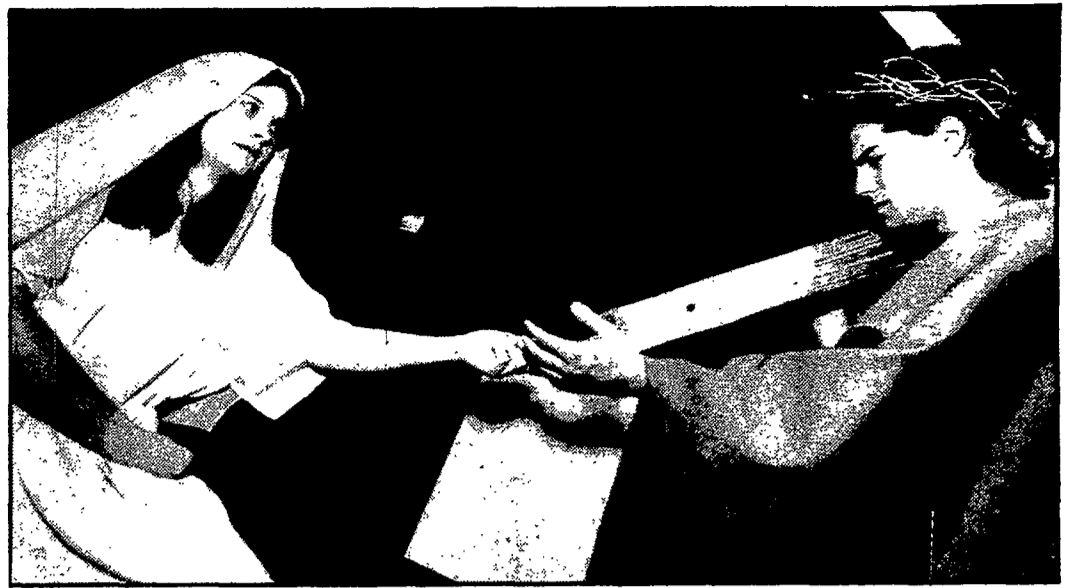
Although it is too early to tell how much this year's fast raised, Claus said that last year's effort raised more than \$1,000.

Several guest speakers discussed drug abuse and treatment during the weekend in order to help teens understand and combat the problem of substance abuse.

Glen Palmer, who is director of long-term, in-patient care at Park Ridge, focused on treatment during his talk. He was accompanied by a teen currently undergoing



Acting out the first station of the cross, Anthony Indovina (left) helps Matt Kraus as Pontius Pilate wash his hands of Christ's crucifixion.



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer  
Jennifer Stallery (left) and Jim Marra depict the fourth station of the cross, where Jesus meets His Blessed Mother.

treatment so she could talk about her experience.

"It was very touching and very moving," Claus said.

Trish Nadler, 15, said the program helped put things in perspective for her.

"It made us realize that we all have our problems, but they're not as serious as drug abuse or something," Nadler said. She noted that she hopes to go into substance abuse counseling as a career.

Father Lawrence V. Murphy, pastor of Resurrection Church, said that the teen's sacrifice shows a refreshing selflessness. "I really see a change in you that gives me hope things are getting better. You're beginning to care about others, not just yourselves."

Going without food for 24 hours is not easy for most teens. A few days after the fast, Nadler said she was still hungry.

Classen said it was not too difficult for him to fast because his mind "just wasn't on eating."

He said the experience made him grateful for what he had. "I was glad I was living in Perinton. We can just go order pizza if we want. Other people can't."

And eat pizza they did. Claus noted that the 45 teens who participated in the fast "inhaled" seven sheet-sized pizzas in a matter of minutes when the fast ended Saturday night.

"By then, they were ready to just devour the pizza man," she said.

But the meaning of the fast was not lost in the feast, according to Marra.

"Fasting for 24 hours is nothing in comparison to people who go weeks without food. You don't know how good you have it, until you don't have it anymore," he said.

### Our Lady of Mercy

## What are you doing during Lent?

Leora Dryer, senior:

I'm giving up cookies and ice cream because giving them up constantly reminds me what Lent is all about — sacrifice. It's also not too bad for my waistline.



### AS TEENS SEE

Kirstie Marcello, freshman:

I gave up several things. I gave up biting my nails for myself. I gave up fighting with my family because it helps my family. Jesus does a lot for us. This is a time we can show our love.



Andrea Kling, sophomore:

I don't give up anything for Lent. I try to do something extra, because during Lent you should try to be more Christian, not less Christian. If you're giving up something, you're not doing as much.



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Hint: recording artist's initials are D.B.

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Each week, the Catholic Courier, in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend (if applicable), cut out the coupon and send it in to the Catholic Courier. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.

If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave.

All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

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