

## Parish retraces the Way of the Cross

GENEVA — Kay Lannon still remembers the day she first decided to direct the living Stations of the Cross at St. Stephen's Parish.

Nine years ago, Father Paul Tomasso, then St. Stephen's parochial vicar, asked Lannon if she could do something to improve the parish's observance of the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

Lannon, who had been involved with the theater since she was a child, said she'd think about it while walking home.

The decision arrived in a flash when she reached her house, Lannon recalls. "It just came to me, 'Why yes, God has given me this gift: Use it.'"

For the nine years since, Lannon has directed and narrated the parish's annual Good Friday production of the stations.

This year, she is coordinating an effort that includes approximately 45 people from four parishes: St. Stephen's and St. Francis de Sales in Geneva; St. Mary's in Rushville; and St. Theresa's in Stanley.

Lannon considers directing the Stations of the Cross a ministry. "This is what I do for Lent," she said. "I am making (people) more aware of Christ's crucifixion and what he did for us."

Each year, Lannon makes changes in the production to improve it. This year, for example, the stations include a new cross made by parishioner Earl Schroo. At the crucifixion scene, the cross will be raised into the air over the congregation.

Among those involved with the production, Lannon is the only one with professional acting experience. She has been performing since childhood, and has been involved with regional theater in the

Finger Lakes area for many years. Currently, she does a one-woman show combining period costume, singing and dancing.

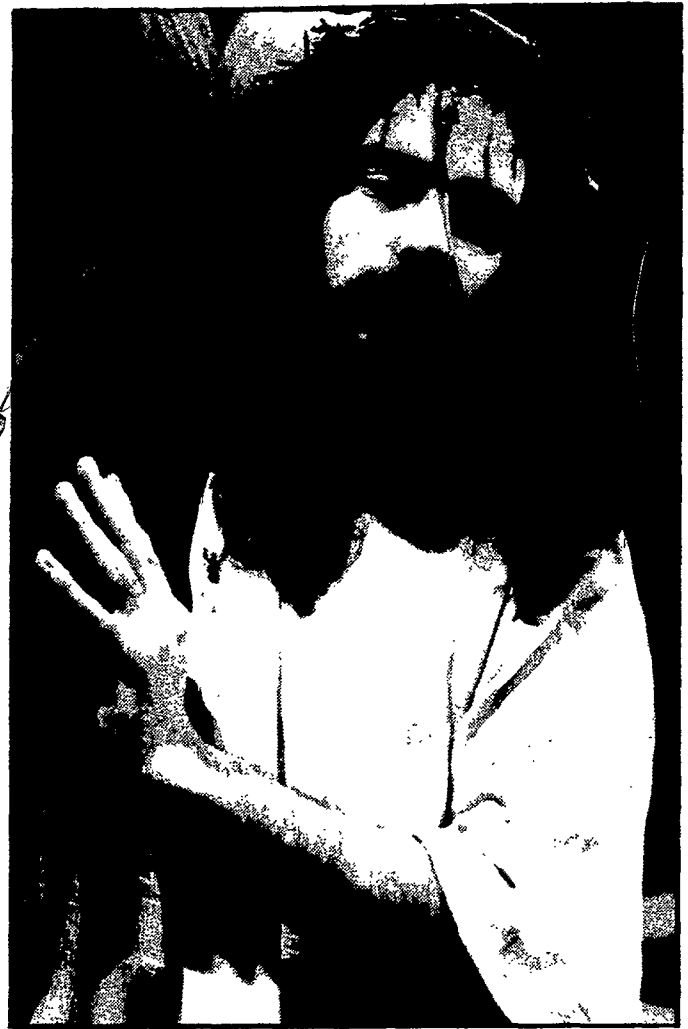
Work on the 1990 stations began in February with an organizational meeting. Lannon personally invited people to play the various parts, and the cast and crew have practiced weekly since. Many of the cast members also made their own costumes.

"I couldn't do it without the help of all these people," Lannon acknowledged.

Even as this year's production is full swing, Lannon is already working on next year's depiction. Lannon said she will continue to work on the Stations of the Cross as long as she is able.

"It is my ministry," Lannon said. "It is something that God has called me to do."

— Lee Strong



Jesus, played by Daniel Bradley, carries His cross.



Jesus speaks to the women and children of Jerusalem in the eighth station of the cross.



Jesus falls for the third time.



Jesus is condemned to death by Pontius Pilate.

Courier photographs  
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