

# Cyclists set to hit the road to help homeless

By Lee Strong  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — When he was in the fifth grade, Brian Mack angered his mother by not getting home in time for dinner one day.

Mack had an excuse. He had decided to go for a bicycle ride — from his Irondequoit home to the Eastview Mall in Victor, or approximately 40 miles round trip.

This summer, Mack will miss a number of meals at his mother's home, but this time his mother will be partly to blame.

Mack, along with Ed Mangan, a fellow member of the McQuaid Jesuit High School Class of 1986, will ride their bicycles from Northern California to Rochester to raise money for the homeless.

Their goal for the trip — which is scheduled to take place from late-May through July — is to earn \$10,000 for the soon-to-be-opened Francis Hospitality Center, the Catholic Family Center's year-round, 24-hour facility that will provide shelter for as many as 30 homeless men at a time.

The duo decided to undertake the fundraiser after they mentioned to Brian's mother — Denise Mack, religious-education director at St. Rita's in Webster — that they were planning a summer bicycle trip.

"She suggested that we do it for some cause," Mangan recalled. Denise Mack also suggested the Francis Center as a possibility.

The two young men contacted the Catholic Family Center, toured the building, and decided to add a serious component to their plans for summer fun.

In a letter to potential contributors, Mack linked the bicycle trip to the recent ice



Babette G. Augustin/Staff photographer

Ed Mangan (left) and Brian Mack will ride their bicycles from northern California to Rochester this summer as a fundraiser for the homeless. Their goal for the trip is to raise \$10,000 for the Francis Hospitality Center.

storm that struck the Rochester region, causing millions of dollars in damages and causing massive power outages that left some area residents without electricity for as much as two weeks.

Mack said in the letter that the storm "forced approximately 175,000 families to go without heat or electricity for a few days. This summer I am bicycling across the country to raise money for those who are without heat and electricity year round."

Originally, Mack and Mangan had

planned their journey simply as a sight-seeing tour. They started talking about the possibility last December, when Mack, who graduated from Villanova University in 1990, and Mangan, currently a student at the University of Rochester, were traveling in New England, visiting friends.

One of those friends mentioned that she would like to go on a long-distance bicycle trip someday. The remark got Mangan and Mack thinking, and they decided to try such a trip themselves.

"It never started out as a grand plan,"

Mack said. "It just started out as something to do, and it grew from there."

Most people would find a 2,800-mile bicycle trip lasting 50-55 days to be a daunting prospect. But Mack and Mangan are both experienced cyclists.

In addition to his Eastview Mall excursion, Mack frequently rode from Irondequoit to McQuaid, where he was a member of the track and cross-country teams. He also competed in triathlons — events combining cycling, swimming and running.

Mangan, a Lima native, first became interested in bicycles from a mechanical point-of-view, disassembling and rebuilding bikes in his family's garage. He later worked as a mechanic in a bicycle shop, and occasionally rode his bicycle to McQuaid, where he played football.

To train for the upcoming trip, the two have been riding a stationary bicycle in the house they share, as well as running, swimming and playing basketball.

Now they are seeking donations and corporate sponsors for the trip. They estimate such "overhead" expenses as repairs and lodging will cost approximately \$2,500.

Mack and Mangan said they will keep those expenses low by camping out frequently, and making use of a network of cycling enthusiasts across the country who might be willing to put them up.

The donations they collect will go entirely for the Francis Center, they said.

In addition to the letters to businesses, friends, relatives and individuals who might be interested in supporting the trip,

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## Conference to stress conflict resolution

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — When Jesus drove the moneychangers from the temple, he offered a model rarely noted by Catholics who emphasize turning the other cheek in verbal battles with their parish leaders.

On the other hand, the Lord did accommodate his mother's wishes at the wedding in Cana, and occasionally chose to slip away from unruly crowds rather than to challenge them directly.

Such incidents show that Jesus adapted his approach to conflict according to the situations that confronted him, commented James Ramerman, director of Ramerman Consultants for Human Services and a parishioner at Corpus Christi Church, 864 E. Main St.

Ramerman will be one of 11 speakers slated to appear at the all-day sessions of ecumenical conference on "Transforming Conflict in the Church" April 19-20 in the auditorium of Colgate Rochester Divinity School/Bexley/Crozer, 1100 S. Goodman

St.

The campus is also home to St. Bernard's Institute, which is co-sponsoring the event with Colgate, the Catholic Diocese of Rochester, Catholic Family Center, and 10 other groups and organizations.

Among the speakers for the conference will be John Paul Lederach, director of the International Conciliation Service of the Mennonite Central Committee, and the author of several English and Spanish books and articles on conflict resolution. Lederach also will give a speech entitled, "Cross-cultural issues in conflict transformation," on April 19 at 7:30 p.m. The speech is free and open to the public.

Catholics should be particularly interested in the conference, Ramerman said. The Second Vatican Council opened church administration to greater lay involvement, he noted, but the church has not yet developed models for resolving conflicts engendered by such change.

Such conflicts are partially rooted in the growing assertiveness of Catholic lay per-

sons, he said. The laity is just as confused about the church's decision-making process as is the hierarchy, which continually is presented with new situations that entail sharing authority, he observed. He also noted that the church's multi-ethnic diversity contributes to the potential for conflict.

"Catholic parishioners want to be seen more and more as part of the decision-making process," Ramerman said. Unfortunately, however, Catholics share with other Christians a tendency to characterize public disputes as un-Christian. "Most churches have one response, which is to avoid (conflict)," he pointed out, adding, that church members tend to repress their disagreements so much that when they do air their differences "it comes out in anger."

Part of the problem is that parishes and congregations have been slow to jump on

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