

Olympian's achievements thrill senior

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Pauline Dick, a Ukrainian immigrant and a parishioner at St. Josaphat's Church, remembers taking a little girl ice-skating on occasion a little less than 25 years ago.

"She was good — really good — all the time," said Dick. "Even as a little girl, she was not clumsy."

That "little girl" grew up to be 29-year-old Cathy Turner, the U.S. Olympic speedskater who took two medals home with her from Albertville, France, where the XVI Winter Olympics concluded on Sunday, Feb. 23.

Along with her 86th birthday next month, Dick will have plenty to celebrate these days as Turner won the first gold medal ever in women's 500-meter short-track speedskating, a new Olympic event, on Saturday, Feb. 22. Turner also skated with the U.S. team that won a silver medal in 3,000-meter short-track relay, Thursday, Feb. 20.

Turner has often enjoyed holidays and visits at Dick's house because Turner's grandmother is the sister of Dick's daughter-in-law, Mary Zaretsky, who is married to Dick's son, Michael. Dick's first husband, with whom she had Michael, 64, was Joseph Zaretsky, who died in 1955. Dick married her second husband, the late Peter



Pauline Dick (center) gets a cuddle from her great-grandchildren, Mary Rose Anuszkiewicz (right), and her brother, Peter, during a family gathering at the Irondequoit home of Dick's son Feb. 22. Friends and family came to watch their relative, Cathy Turner, compete for an Olympic gold medal.

Dick, in 1956.

The Ukrainian woman recalled talking with Turner about her aspirations for Olympic success over the last few years. Turner wasn't always sure she wanted to go for the gold, Dick said, but the speedskater gained confidence in recent months.

"Last year or so, she said 'OK, I'm



Pauline Dick

going to do it — it's worthwhile," Dick said.

Dick last saw Turner at Christmas-time, and she recalled that all Turner wanted from her this year "was just a kiss and love."

Love is what all the members of the Zaretsky family say emanates from Dick whenever the extended clan

gathers at her home. Family members noted that Dick always encourages success among her family members and puts the welfare of others ahead of herself.

"Thank God for making her special," said Patty Anuszkiewicz, Dick's granddaughter.

One of the best ways that Dick expresses her affection for strangers and friends is by sitting them down to a home-cooked meal. A veteran chef, Dick cooked at the Ukrainian-American Club on Hudson Avenue from 1956-70. She then cooked for the Basilian fathers at Aquinas Institute up until the mid-1980s.


Although she's now retired, Dick still stays active. She frequently travels to the 700 North Street Senior Center during the week. The center is operated under the auspices of the Elder Services program of Catholic Family Center, 50 Chestnut St.

Like her son's Olympian grandniece, Dick likes to take chances. She is a regular gambler at 700 North Street, according to Barbara Cady, director of the center. Dick often likes to play "Lots of Lotta" — a lottery-type game, Cady said.

"She's very personable," Cady said.



Family photographs decorate a sideboard in Dick's Rochester home.




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