

Family and friends add to Cathy Turner's bliss

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

HILTON — Two weeks ago, Rochester native Cathy Turner shared her accomplishments with the world.

Last week's celebrations were kept more localized. And it was the hometown folks who provided the new Olympic star with her most cherished moments.

"To tell you the truth, my biggest thrill was coming home and celebrating with my family at the airport. We're a big Russian-Ukrainian family. We have very, very big holidays and we're very tight," Turner, a parishioner of St. Joseph's Church in Irondequoit, told the *Catholic Courier*. She was interviewed from her North Greece home, where she lives with her mother.

"It's just wonderful that I can make their lives happier," added Turner.

Family members weren't the only ones touched by Turner's accomplishments — an individual gold medal in

women's 500-meter short-track speed skating and a silver as a member of the 3,000-meter short-track relay team.

More than 1,000 well-wishers flocked to Greater Rochester International Airport last Tuesday evening, Feb. 25, as Turner made her triumphant return home from the XVI Winter Olympics in Albertville, France.

Amid countless appearances on Rochester-area television and radio stations, Turner again greeted the public during a parade through the village of Hilton. The parade was followed by a standing-room-only party at the village's fire hall last Friday night.

Although she had had only a few hours sleep since the Olympics, the 5-foot-2-inch Turner never lost her smile or graciousness through all the hoopla. In fact, she still seemed in awe of the attention as she was presented with a slew of gifts and complimentary speeches from Rochester-area officials during the Hilton party.

"That's the way I am. I have trouble handling fame," admitted Turner.



Turner waves to well-wishers during a parade in her honor in Hilton Feb. 28. Erik Kunkel/Photo Intern

With both her medals hanging from her neck, Turner stayed late into the night to sign autographs for hundreds of supporters. She said that was the point where "it really started to hit me. I couldn't even swallow any more. The doctor says I can't keep going like this, or I'll end up in the hospital. I have a real bad sore throat and I'm on antibiotics.

"I felt so bad because I couldn't even yell to the people during the parade. I had to have my brother yell for

with offers for a book and movie about her life, and she was due to fly to New York City earlier this week to meet with an attorney and talent agency.

Recording contracts also loom; by now her eight-year absence from speed skating to pursue a singing and songwriting career has been well documented.

Her return to the sport in 1988 paid off in a major way with her success at Albertville. First Turner earned a silver medal on Thursday, Feb. 20, by an-



An exuberant Cathy Turner, complete with gold and silver Olympic medals around her neck, steps into Greater Rochester International Airport Feb. 25. Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor



Turner (center), joined by her brother David Turner (left) and his fiancée Renee Ruter, speaks to the press from inside a limousine at the airport. Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

me," laughed Turner, whose voice had turned raspy by the end of the week but hadn't yet lost any of its enthusiasm.

Nancy Price, Turner's mother, reported, "The phone's been going 24 hours. It's been so tiresome."

Turner's brother, Dave, added that the commotion has been "wild — just incredible."

Yet it looks as if life for the 29-year-old East High School graduate isn't about to get any quieter for quite some time. Already she's been approached

choring the 3,000-meter relay to a second-place finish.

Two days later came her race of a lifetime, when she edged out China's Li Yan by just :0.04 of a second. The finish was so close that Turner didn't even believe she'd won until her name was called.

Upon that announcement she literally began jumping for joy. Her mother came out of the stands and draped an American flag around her; Turner proceeded to make a victory lap around the ice.

SHAMROCK SALE
(THRU MARCH 17th)

Save on Specially Tagged items from 10-40% OFF

Including:

- Giftware
- Clothing
- Knitwear
- Special Items

Irish Import Shop

3821 West Ridge Road
Corner of Elmgrove Road
225-1050
open 7 days a week

"UPCOMING TRIPS"

ATLANTIC CITY
March 29-31
Caesar's Hotel & Casino
ONLY 4 SEATS LEFT!

ONEIDA INDIAN BINGO GAME
SATURDAY, APR. 4th - \$55 per person
Includes bus fare, High Roller Pkgs., BIG JACKPOTS! All seats reserved. Pickup locations in Rochester, Canandaigua, Geneva, Waterloo & Lyons. Call for reservations and pickup times.

CRUISE... "THE MONARCH OF THE SEAS"
JULY 5-12
Ports of Call: Puerto Rico, Martinique, Barbados, Antigua, St. Maarten & St. Thomas
Newest ship of the Royal Caribbean Lines. Bon Voyage Dinner and Fashion Show three weeks prior to sailing at beautiful Club 86 in Geneva.
\$1,628.60p.p./d.o. (Outside Cabin)
\$1,333.74p.p./triple, \$1,188.55p.p./quad
Cost includes air fare, entertainment, meals and port tax.
For more information, call or write,
MILDRED MATHIS
P.O. Box 243, Geneva, New York 14456
Phone (315) 789-5612 or
Beverly Hadee: 716-288-2877
Before 7:30a.m. or after 7:00p.m.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN APARTMENTS

Newly renovated in Irondequoit for Senior Citizens.
Fall 1991 opening.

- 1 & 2 Bedrooms
- Handicapped accessible
- 24-hour maintenance
- Adult health/social center
- Available (provided by Independent Living for Seniors)

EOH
544-9100

CONIFER DEVELOPMENT

NC
new name same service

CNS
Catholic News Service

Catholic News Service (CNS) now appears on stories in this paper. It's a new name for National Catholic News Service (NC), but the service is the same - coverage of the Church around the world.

CNS - Catholic News Service
3211 Fourth Street N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20017-1100