

Activist appeals for youths to strengthen faith

Josyp Terelya speaks before 300 at Kearney

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

IRONDEQUOIT — Josyp Terelya isn't out to win any popularity contests.

"A lot of people tell me, 'Josyp, you talk too much and make too many enemies,'" Terelya said through an interpreter to approximately 300 people at Bishop Kearney High School, 125 Kings Hwy. S.

Terelya's bottom line is that Catholics must follow all church teachings. And, in today's society, he realizes that this is a message not everyone may care to hear.

The 49-year-old exiled leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Church spoke at Kearney this past Sunday, Jan. 10. During his 90-minute lecture, he lashed out against pornography, homosexuality, abortion, the absence of prayer and Catholic education, and the unwillingness of world leaders to seek peace.

Terelya, who now resides in Toronto, Ontario, spoke through an interpreter, Peter Humennyj, also of Toronto. The Ukrainian activist questioned youths in the auditorium about prayer, asking them if they pray each night with their parents. When only a few hands went up, Terelya replied, "Yet we're all Catholic."

Youth-related matters resurfaced twice during Terelya's talk. At one point, he emphasized to parents the importance of encouraging their children to grow in the Catholic faith.

"Take children from different parishes and bring them together," he suggested. "But do not order them around; let them find their own ways of communicating and praying together. Just give them the initiative."

Terelya also reflected on the controversy surrounding the closing of three Catholic elementary schools in the diocese's Northeast Quadrant — where Kearney is located — within the past year.

"It's not enough to protest," he said. "Start by building a new school."

If subtlety isn't Terelya's strong suit, it's mainly because he hasn't led a very



S. John Wilkin / Photo intern

Josyp Terelya, the 49-year-old exiled leader of the Ukrainian Catholic Church, listens as his comments on pornography, homosexuality, abortion, and Catholic education are translated to 300 people at Bishop Kearney High School Jan. 10. Terelya will meet with Pope John Paul II in Denver this August.

subtle life. He spent most of the time between 1962-86 as a prisoner in Soviet concentration camps, due to his insistence on practicing his Catholic faith in a Communist nation where Christianity was outlawed.

Terelya was exiled from his Ukrainian homeland upon his release. He continues to preach Catholicism's virtues by lecturing worldwide.

In the most touching moment of his Jan. 10 talk, Terelya related the story of a fellow prisoner who wrote religious poetry. Both of the man's arms were shattered by Soviet officials so he would stop writing, yet the determined prisoner actually created a song entitled "O Jesus Come to Me" by holding a writing instrument with his lips. Soon afterward, a teary-eyed Terelya recalled, the man was killed.

Terelya also told the audience about the many alleged apparitions he has

been witness to — including one in Denver, Colo., last month when a crucifix drew considerable media attention after it allegedly shed tears and blood. During his Denver stay, Terelya had claimed that the Colorado city would be the site of a new beginning for the Catholic Church.

In his closing remarks at Kearney, Terelya told the gathering, "I would not like it if you only politely listened to me and then forgot everything I said."

Chris Beato, a junior at Irondequoit High School, said that Terelya's hard-hitting style had a positive effect on him.

"He got his message across. He made me realize that I could do more," said the 16-year-old Beato.

Both Beato and his brother, Greg, plan to attend World Youth Day in Denver this August. They'll be traveling with a contingent from their parish, St. Thomas the Apostle, 4536 St. Paul Blvd.

Greg Beato noted that not only is Pope John Paul II scheduled to be in Denver, but Terelya — who meets with the pope occasionally — expects to attend World Youth Day as well. For that reason, Greg said, the three-day event will hold special meaning for him.

"Now I know (Terelya's) background," said Greg, 13, an eighth-grader at Dake Middle School in Irondequoit. "And the pope's been with him, so the pope might talk about him a little."

Catholic schools schedule January events

The following Catholic schools have slated events for the month of January:

• St. Louis School, 11 Rand Place, Pittsford, will host a pre-school informational evening in the parish center meeting room at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 14. Registration for pre-school students will take place Jan. 28, starting at 9:30 a.m.

An informational meeting for the school's K-6 program will be held Wednesday, Jan. 27, at 7:30 p.m., in the meeting room. For information, call Sister Miriam at 716/586-5200.

• St. Helen's School, Gates, will hold an "Adult Games Night" on Saturday, Jan. 16, to raise operating funds for its K-6 program. The \$2 admission price includes a chance to win a weekend trip for two, along with other raffles. Refresh-

ments will be available.

For information, call the school office at 716/235-2391, or send the \$2 donation to the school at 150 Lettington Drive, Rochester, N.Y. 14624. Tickets will be mailed out.

• Holy Cross School, 4488 Lake Ave., Rochester, will host an informational meeting for parents on Wednesday, Jan. 20, from 7-8 p.m. A short formal presentation will be followed by an informal question-answer period with school parents and teachers. Refreshments and baby-sitting services will be provided.

Holy Cross houses grades pre-K to eight, including programs for 3- and 4-year-olds. The school also operates a child-care program for school children from 6:50 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

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What Christian pop singer teamed up with Peter Cetera to record the hit song "New Time"?

ANSWER: _____

Name: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
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School: _____

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