

# Choir gears for performance before the pope

ROCHESTER — The Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir has slated a meeting of grave importance with the pope in Rome.

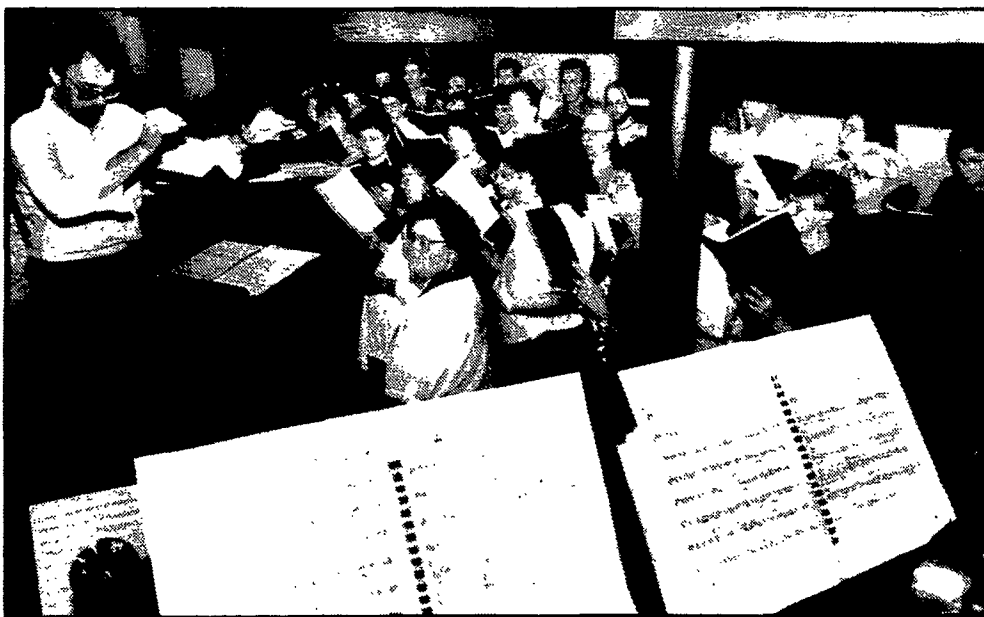
On All Saints Day, Nov. 1, the 28-member choir will perform at a papal Mass to be celebrated at a cemetery in the Rome area, according to J. William Greene, organist/choirmaster at the cathedral, located at 296 Flower City Park.

The performance is one of a number of events slated for the choir when it travels to Rome from Thursday, Oct. 28, to Thursday, Nov. 8.

In addition to the performance slated for All Saints, the choir will perform at a Solemn Mass in St. Peter's Basilica on Oct. 31, and later in the evening at St. Ignatius Church.

The choir will also sing at a papal audience on Nov. 3, during the audience's English-language portion.

On its tour, the choir will view such sites as the Vatican museums; the Sis-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer  
J. William Greene (far left), organist and choirmaster, directs members of his Sacred Heart Cathedral Choir and the St. Joseph Choir of Buffalo during an Oct. 8 rehearsal at Rochester's cathedral. The two choirs will join forces for the 'Festival of Two Cathedrals' this Friday, Oct. 15, at Sacred Heart.

tine Chapel; ancient Rome's ruins; various Christian basilicas; the catacombs; and the Appian Way.

The choir has been raising funds for its excursion since May 1992, Greene said. He noted that about half the money the choir needed — \$17,000 — has been raised, and that choir members will pay for the remainder of the trip's costs out of their own pockets.

The trip was arranged through an agency, Peter's Way, Inc., out of Port Washington, Greene said. He noted that the agency regularly sets up tours for U.S. choirs.

Prior to leaving for Rome, the choir has slated a choral festival with a choir from St. Joseph's Cathedral in Buffalo. The "Festival of Two Cathedrals" is slated for Friday, Oct. 15, at 8:15 p.m. at Sacred Heart Cathedral. Greene noted that both choirs will perform with brass and percussive accompaniment.

Call 716/254-3221 for information.

— Rob Cullivan

## St. Stephen's in Geneva reaches out to Ugandan parish

By Lee Strong  
Senior staff writer

GENEVA — For years, many youths at St. Stephen and St. Francis parishes have been linked by a common school: St. Francis deSales-St. Stephen.

Now, the Catholic school's students in this Ontario County city are preparing to establish links not across town, but across the ocean.

The students are waiting to become pen pals with students in Africa as part of St. Stephen Parish's developing sister-parish relationship with St. John the Baptist Parish in Pallisa — a 100-square mile parish that is part of the Diocese of Tororo in Uganda.

The exact nature of this sister-parish relationship is currently under consideration by St. Stephen parish council, noted Monsignor Gerard C. Krieg. But the alliance's basic elements were outlined during a trip Monsignor Krieg made to Uganda in July of this year. The relationship was further solidified when Father Gerard Osalia, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, visited Geneva over Labor Day weekend.

In addition to developing the pen-pal relationship between the schools, the covenant calls for a commitment to adoration of the Blessed Sacrament through perpetual adoration, and for St. Stephen Parish to provide "seed money" to help create services and

projects in St. John the Baptist's 48 outstations — which are essentially mission churches.

These projects would eventually grow to be self supporting, and some would in turn provide seed money for projects in other outstations — thus reducing the need for money from the Geneva parish, Monsignor Krieg explained.

Among the potential projects are creating a brick-making business; developing irrigation systems to help promote vegetable businesses; forming mother's and women's groups; and providing tuition-assistance.

The link between the parishes actually dates back to 1990, when Father Gabriel Oweno of the Tororo diocese spoke at St. Stephen Parish as part of a mission appeal.

Father Oweno was so impressed by the parish that after returning to Uganda, he suggested to his brother, Bishop Charles Odongo, that one of the diocese's seminarians studying at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans serve a pastoral internship at the Geneva parish.

As a result, Michael Kabyie spent the summer of 1990 at St. Stephen Parish.

He was followed in 1992 by Father Peter Okuth, who spent five months in Geneva, and whose ordination July 3, 1993, was the initial reason for Mon-

signor Krieg's weeklong visit to Uganda this summer. This past summer, a third seminarian, Charles Ogwang, served the parish.

During his time at St. Stephen, the soon-to-be-ordained Father Okuth impressed many people in the Geneva community, Monsignor Krieg observed.

"Many of the elderly parishioners wanted to adopt him as a son or a grandson," the Geneva pastor reported.

Father Okuth also proved popular with the students in the school, and in the neighborhood, Monsignor Krieg added, noting, "Our school kids loved Peter, and were eager to learn about his environment."

Mary Friday, who teaches science and religion at the school, noted that the pen-pal effort will begin with the sixth-grade students. Monsignor Krieg had visited with the sixth-grade students in Uganda, and returned with pictures of the class.

In turn, Father Osalia, during his Geneva visit in September, met with students from St. Francis deSales-St. Stephen School. In addition to taking pictures, he collected questions the students had about Uganda.

The Geneva students are now waiting for responses to those questions, and for return inquiries from the Ugandan students, Friday explained.

Eventually, the students will be paired off as pen pals.

Meanwhile, Friday said, officials plan for this initial effort to expand to other classes, and for the Geneva school to carry out related activities such as cultural fairs.

While these efforts are underway in the school, the parish is in the process of developing greater devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, Monsignor Krieg noted. Eventually, he hoped to have perpetual adoration in the parish one night per week — something that takes place in the Ugandan parish every Thursday night.

While this practice is being promoted, the parish council is considering how best to carry out and further develop the fledgling relationship, Monsignor Krieg said. This process will involve contact between both parishes' parish councils.

The Geneva pastor also pointed out that this is not simply a relationship in which the Geneva parish will help the Ugandan community.

"It is the intent of the people of Tororo that this be mutual," Monsignor Krieg said. "Their intent really is the sharing of faith."

"We're going to learn from one another," he continued, adding that as the covenant is being further elaborated, "We're just looking to let the relationship develop."

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