

McQuaid student seeks prayers to beat cancer

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

BRIGHTON — Cancer is not a contagious disease. Yet "contagious" would be a very accurate one-word description for the kind of support Brannon Smith has received in fighting his illness.

Brannon, a 17-year-old senior at McQuaid Jesuit High School, has found his battle to be a true team effort.

"People have come out of the blue. People I've never met before, or never been close to, have sent cards and letters," remarked Brannon.

The Pittsford resident has been fighting cancer since July of 1992, when he was diagnosed with a malignant bone tumor, known as Ewing's Sarcoma, in his left leg.

He underwent chemotherapy and radiation treatments over the ensuing year, yet a biopsy performed this fall revealed that the cancer had spread to Brannon's lungs. Last week he resumed chemotherapy, and is facing the possibility that his leg will be amputated by year's end.

It is a situation seemingly in need of a miracle — and that's exactly what Brannon has set out to find.

He and his family recently visited the shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville, N.Y., where they learned about Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. This Native American martyr — who died in the late 17th century at the age of 24 after devoting her life to smallpox victims in the Montreal area — needs only one more miracle to



Brannon Smith, a McQuaid Jesuit High School senior who is battling cancer, attended the Knights' football playoff game on Oct. 31 at the University of Rochester to cheer on his classmates.

S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

achieve sainthood.

Brannon and his well-wishers are praying fervently that his own recovery will serve as that miracle.

Father Lawrence P. Searles, SJ, who serves as chaplain at McQuaid, has led this prayer effort. He has distributed a number of leaflets bearing a handwritten plea for prayer by Brannon on one side, and a novena to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha on the other.

This information, said Father Searles, has apparently been recopied and circulated all over the country — not

to mention parts of Africa, Japan and Puerto Rico.

"That letter has had a profound effect on people. I've never seen a network of prayer take off like this," the chaplain commented.

Father Searles also conducted a healing Mass — with more than 50 people in attendance — on Oct. 30 at the home

of Brannon and his parents, Robert and Kathy.

In addition, a shortened novena is recited at the beginning of each school day by the McQuaid student body.

"The students said it should go over the announcements," noted Father Searles.

Brannon, who played soccer for McQuaid until his sophomore year, has been in and out of school since his illness was discovered. Yet he reports that he's still able to enjoy many of his normal activities.

"You miss out on some things, but overall it's not too bad," he said.

A parishioner at Good Shepherd Church in Henrietta, Brannon added that his Catholic faith has helped him through his ordeal.

"(My faith has) strengthened. I always used to go through the motions, but now it means a lot more to me," he remarked.

Father Searles, who has prayed with Brannon and his family during Brannon's hospital stays, describes the McQuaid senior as a "peaceful-type person."

"He's very open to the (Holy) Spirit. There's not a rebellious spirit in him at all," said Father Searles.

EDITORS' NOTE: Those wishing to obtain copies of Brannon Smith's letter and the novena to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha may call Father Lawrence P. Searles at 716/473-1130.

Southern Tier youth group sponsoring Nov. 14 art auction

OWEGO — An art auction will be held Sunday, Nov. 14, in the hall of St. Patrick's Church, 300 Main St. This event will serve as a fundraiser for the combined youth group of St. Patrick and St. Margaret Mary Church, 1110 Pennsylvania Ave., Apalachin.

A preview will begin at 6:30 p.m.,

with the auction starting at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$5 each and can be purchased at both church rectories as well as at the door. The auction will be coordinated by Marlin Art of Deer Park, N.Y.

Call Jan Borromei, 607/625-3192, or Peggy O'Connor, 687-0159, for details.

Girl Scout leadership conference scheduled for Nov. 20

PITTSFORD — "Leadership Explosion: 2000 and Beyond" is the title for the first-ever Girl Scout Leadership Conference. The event will take place Saturday, Nov. 20, at Pittsford Sutherland High School, Sutherland Street, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Mary-Frances Winter, a current Girl Scouts of the USA board member, will serve as the keynote speaker for this 15-workshop conference. Topics to be

explored will include Effective Leadership Skills; Self-Esteem/Self Development; and Girl Scouting: The All-Girl Advantage.

Cost is \$15 for Girl Scout members and \$25 for non-members. For details, call Welthea Christman at 716/263-4117.

END OF THE YEAR PILGRIMAGE SALE!

- For Month of December 1993 -

★ **PRICES SLASHED!** ★

— You KNOW You need to be SPIRITUALLY RE-CHARGED...
— So take an UPLIFTING & INSPIRATIONAL PILGRIMAGE! —



FORM YOUR OWN GROUP
1 FREE TICKET FOR
ONLY 7 PAYING PILGRIMS!

'MEDJUGORJE & ROME'

DATES	#DAYS	REGULAR PRICE	REDUCED PRICE	YOU SAVE
Dec. 5-14	10	\$1225	\$995	\$230

(Via Rome - 2 Day Optional Ext. - \$295 - Return Dec. 16)

Dec. 19-28	10	\$1325	\$1045	\$280
------------	----	--------	--------	-------

(Via Rome - 4 Day Optional Ext. - Inc. New Year's Eve \$495 - Return Jan. 1)

Dec. 27-Jan. 4	8	\$1165	\$895	\$270
----------------	---	--------	-------	-------

CHRISTMAS IN 'BETHLEHEM & THE HOLYLAND'

Dec. 19-27	9	\$1695	\$1390	\$305
------------	---	--------	--------	-------

(4-Day Opt. Ext. to EGYPT - \$595 - Return Dec. 31)

'GUADALUPE & MEXICO'

Dec. 10-15	6	\$555	\$395	\$160
------------	---	-------	-------	-------

(Land Only - Plus Air)

'BETANIA & VENEZUELA'

Dec. 6-11	6	\$1099	\$949	\$150
-----------	---	--------	-------	-------

ALL PRICES NY/NY plus airport taxes. Domestic air connections and Group add-on airtares available from most major airports.

Call: 'Queen of Peace Ministry' • Ph. 1-800-321-MARY (6279) • FAX (714) 374-9490

PUT YOUR BEST FOOT FORWARD!



Why be a benchwarmer when you can be a starter? Come on, join The DeSales Team.

DeSales provides a supportive academic atmosphere with a low teacher to student ratio, superior college preparation and extracurricular activities including boys' and girls' sports teams that are a step ahead of the rest!

Entrance Exam
Saturday, Nov. 13
8:30 AM



DeSales Catholic High School
90 Pulteney Street
Geneva, New York 14456
(315) 789-5111

Everyone needs a PAAL.



Stay protected with the PAAL, Quorum's Personal Attack Alarm that blasts 103dB (min.) when you simply pull the pin. Choose either the standard or sports model. Carry it to school, the mall, the park, wherever you go. PAAL lets out a cry for help whenever you need it. And only Quorum gives you that kind of technology and security.

Quorum
Securing Life

Contact your Quorum Independent Distributor

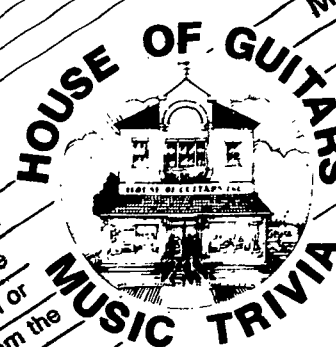
21st Century Electronics
Laurelle Ermatinger
(716) 425-3499
FREE DELIVERY

WIN A FREE ALBUM OR TAPE
THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:
What group re-recorded Harry Chapin's classic hit, 'Cats in the Hat'?

ANSWER:

Name:
Address:
City:
School:

Rules: One correct entry will be selected at random to receive a gift certificate for a free album or tape of the recipient's choice from the House of Guitars.



Most New Album and Tape Releases Just \$6.98
CD's From \$3.98 to \$11.98 ea.
645 Titus Avenue
544-9928 or 544-3500

Winner: Amy Wallace from Bergen correctly identified Heart Shaped Box as the latest single from Nirvana.

Mail Entries to:
Catholic Trivia
1150 Buffalo Rd.
Rochester, NY 14624