

YOUTH FEATURE

Scouts honored at cathedral ceremony

ROCHESTER — More than 300 youths were honored by Bishop Matthew H. Clark at a Mass held Feb. 27 to commemorate Diocesan Scout Sunday. The service took place at Sacred Heart Cathedral, 296 Flower City Park.

A total of 309 Scouts were recognized, with approximately 100 attending the ceremony. Medals were awarded to Girls Scouts, and emblems were presented to Boy Scouts. Parents went forward with the Scouts as their awards were presented.

Girl Scout award categories were as follows: "Family of God," for ages 7-9; "I Live My Faith," for ages 9-11; and "Marian," for ages 12-15.

The Boy Scout award categories included "Light of Christ," for grades 1-2 Cub Scouts; *Parvuli Dei*, for grades 3-5 Cub Scouts; and *Ad Altare Dei*, for grades 7-8 Boy Scouts.

Host families sought for exchange students

ROCHESTER — Host families are needed for the ASSE International Student Exchange Program.

The program's students, who range in age from 15 to 18, come from several foreign countries. Their hosts would provide accommodations for the upcoming school year.

ASSE, a non-profit organization, is also looking for area youths who would like to become exchange students.

For details, call Veronica Mangan at 716/392-4958.

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Students embrace AIDS issues

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — When asked how they would react if they discovered that a close friend had AIDS, Tom Jagla and Stefania Quattrociochi replied quickly and firmly.

"I wouldn't treat them any different," the 14-year-old Jagla stated.

"I'd try to help them, because they'd need people even more," the 13-year-old Quattrociochi added.

Quattrociochi noted that she recently saw the movie *Philadelphia*, which tells the story of a lawyer who is fired from his firm after it is revealed that he's a homosexual suffering from AIDS.

"I thought it was sad to have people not want to be around him because he had AIDS," said Quattrociochi.

She and Jagla were part of a group from Church of the Holy Spirit, 1355 Hatch Road, Penfield, who spent part of last Saturday morning, March 12, at the AIDS Rochester offices located at 1150 University Ave.

The 11-youth, three-adult contingent visited AIDS Rochester as part of an on-going service project involving Holy Spirit's confirmation class.

Last Saturday, they were given a brief seminar by AIDS Rochester volunteer director Chuck Miller and introduced to a person who is infected by the HIV virus. The parishioners then covered the building's rooms and hallways with various St. Patrick's Day decorations.

Holy Spirit's affiliation with AIDS Rochester began in early 1993. Last year's confirmation class raised \$300 through a "Sweetheart Baked Food Sale," which benefited children afflicted by AIDS. The 1993 class also decorated the AIDS Rochester building for Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day.

Many of those activities were repeated this year. The baked food sale nearly doubled its 1993 proceeds, raising \$578 for AIDS Rochester's "Meals on Wheels" program which provides meals for homebound AIDS patients.

Other recent outreach activities performed by the Holy Spirit youths included a summer sale and raffle raising \$450 for flood victims in the midwestern



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Brian Cole (left) helps Stefania Quattrociochi and Tom Jagla decorate the inside of AIDS Rochester's headquarters on March 12.

United States, and visits during Advent to elderly residents at St. Ann's Home.

Sister Lucille Nalbone, MPF, religious-education coordinator at Holy Spirit, noted that due to the subject matter, not all confirmation-class members participate in the AIDS Rochester project.

"The parents have been very supportive, although a couple have not allowed their kids to be here," she said.

"Some parents said, 'I don't want my children there,' and others made excuses," added Julie Ruggiero, a Holy Spirit religious-education instructor. "They think it's unsafe; that you can get

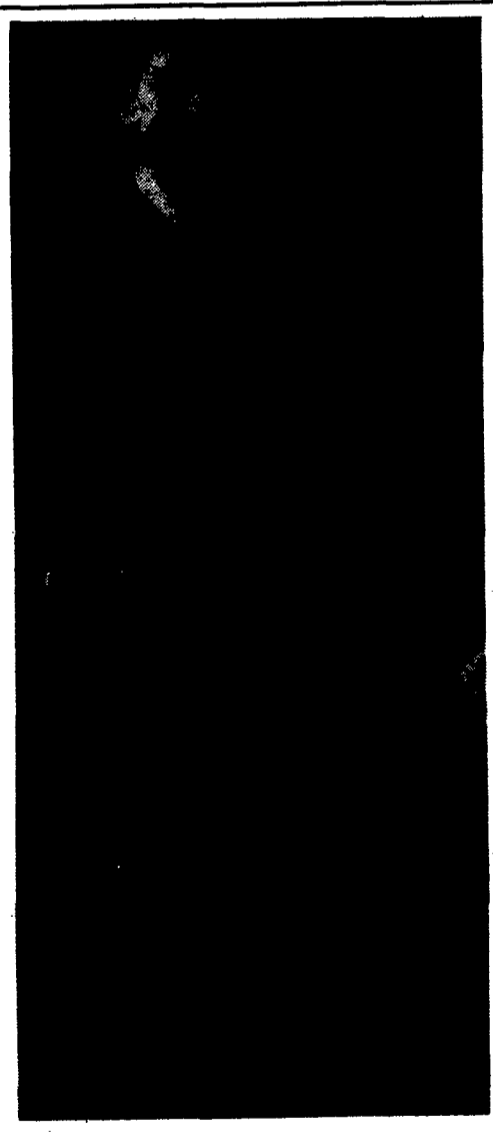
AIDS from drinking the water or breathing the air."

Ruggiero added that she'd like to see adults show more compassion toward those afflicted by AIDS by "dropping that homosexual stigmatism and that (an AIDS victim) is the sinner."

Sister Nalbone acknowledged that projects such as the one at Holy Spirit play an important role in enlightening children about AIDS and its victims.

"Education is becoming more predominant," she said. "This group is very open. They feel very free to discuss (AIDS) among themselves."

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