

# Student carnival assists charities



Emily Lawlor (right) just misses making the first shot of her three chances on the putting green.



Jessica Martin (left) and Justin Packard show off their winnings at a March 20 carnival held at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary School in Brockport. Proceeds benefited Operation Rice Bowl.

S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

BROCKPORT — The way these youths generate ideas, advertising-agency executives might soon be knocking at their doors.

Brainstorming sessions involving the seventh-grade religious education class from Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 152 Main St., have led to several innovative approaches to raise money for the poor.

It all began last fall, when instructors Sharon Wheat and Diane Swanson asked their students to think up various projects to assist a local family of seven which couldn't afford to celebrate Christmas.

"They came up with seven activities," Wheat noted.

Three of those events were implemented quickly. A bake sale, bottle-and-can collection, and "gym-a-thon" activity night raised nearly \$300. The money was put toward gifts for the Rochester family, as well as the Nativity parish and a Brockport-based ecumenical food shelf.

Speaking of shelves, one of the seventh-graders' original ideas was taken off the shelf this past Sunday, March 20, when an afternoon carnival took place at the Church of the Nativity School, located at the corner of Holley and Utica streets.

Nativity's gymnasium was filled with more than 100 children and their parents, who took part in activities such as a ring toss, football toss, jellybean-jar and penny-jar guess, quarter pitch and face-painting.

Proceeds from this carnival will benefit Operation Rice Bowl, a fundraising drive held in parishes across the United States during Lent. Seventy-five percent of Operation Rice Bowl's proceeds benefit overseas anti-poverty programs run by Catholic Relief Services; the remaining 25 percent goes toward similar projects within each diocese.

Wheat explained that even though there hadn't been enough time to prepare for a carnival before last Christmas, the current season proved to be timely.

"It was Lent, and there was a project (Operation Rice Bowl) that would benefit a lot of people. The whole thing just seemed to fit together," said Wheat.

The seventh-graders also recruited older religious-education students to lend a hand, and they did so by helping staff the carnival. In addition, the students were guided by input from the parish festival committee during this event's planning stages.

Amber Galinski, 12, acknowledged that she was surprised by such a large turnout on Sunday.

"I only thought a couple of people would come," she admitted.

Katie Sime, 13, pointed out that regardless of the attendance, the 10 members of her seventh-grade class are filled with a sense of accomplishment.

"We're really happy with the results.



Stacy Barlett tries her hand at 'Down the Drain' during the carnival.

But even with five people coming we'd be happy, because we proved that we could do this," she said.

Both Galinski and Sime noted that they were already familiar with Operation Rice Bowl because they had contributed to parish collections for the project in previous years.

"We really want to help Operation Rice Bowl and give to the people in Third World countries, and even our own diocese," Sime remarked.

Wheat has been extremely pleased with the effort her class has put forth over the past few months.

"It's very impressive," she said. "They're excited, and I see a lot of Christian awareness."

## Registration open for Nazareth Hall schools

ROCHESTER — Nazareth Hall Elementary School, 180 Raines Park, is accepting registration for its pre-school program, open to children ages 3-4.

In addition, limited openings are available in grades K-5 at the elementary school as well as grades 6-8 at Nazareth Hall Middle School, 1001 Lake Ave.

For details, call 716/458-3786.


## Benefit walk slated

ROCHESTER — Registration is open for the fifth-annual MS Walk on Sunday, April 10.

This fundraising event will take place in Rochester, Greece and Canandaigua. Each of these sites will feature 8-kilometer and 15-kilometer routes along scenic routes.

All proceeds will benefit Rochester Area Multiple Sclerosis, 1000 Elmwood Ave., which serves more than 1,000 multiple sclerosis patients and their families in Monroe, Ontario, Wayne and Livingston counties.

For information, call Valerie King at 716/271-0801, ext. 557.



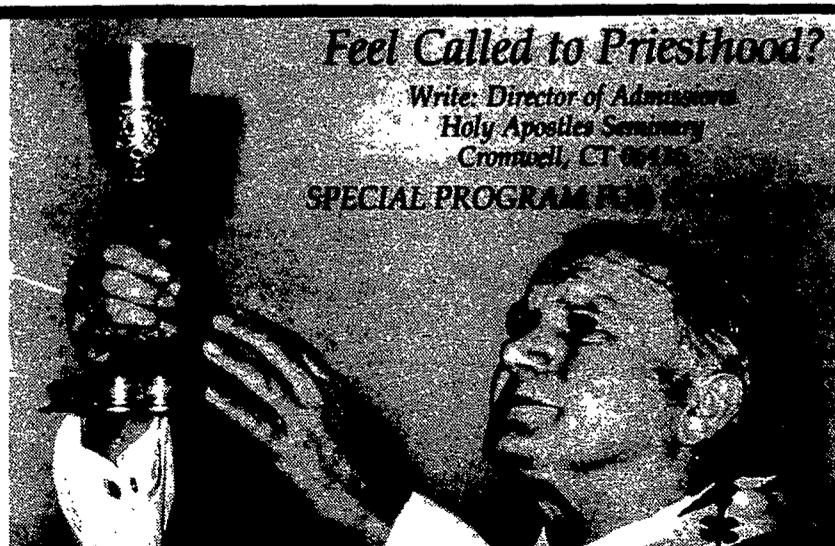
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