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S. John Wilkins/Staff photographer

Sean Borrromei, a senior at Owego Free Academy and a parishioner at St. Margaret Mary Church in Apalachin, plans to study music education this fall.

High school seniors upbeat as they ponder what's next

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

Sean Borrromei, a parishioner at St. Margaret Mary Church, 174 Pennsylvania Ave., Apalachin, plans to wash Tioga County in rock 'n' roll sound this summer.

"This is my first garage band," Borrromei proudly said of "Nutritious Detergent," a six-piece outfit that plays songs by Chuck Berry, Bob Dylan and Stone Temple Pilots. The Owego Free Academy senior plays drums for the fledgling group.

"The stuff we have written is kind of mellow," Borrromei continued, referring to the musical group's original songs. "The lyrics you really have to listen to."

Apparently, a lot of people like listening to whatever Borrromei plays. He was named Outstanding Musician this year at the academy for his work on percussion. He also won a spot in the Area All-State Band.

Borrromei plans to take his talents to either Nazareth College in Rochester next fall or the State University of New York College at Fredonia, where

he will study music education.

He is one of thousands of young diocesan Catholics graduating this June, ready to embark on an attempt to fulfill their dreams. Many of these youths also spent time serving their parishes and participating in their youth groups.

Borrromei's mother, Jan, works as a youth minister at St. Margaret Mary's Church (and at St. Patrick's, Owego). He credited her with encouraging him to join the youth group's leadership team. Sean feels better prepared to teach youngsters music after directing teens through youth ministry.

"You have to be on their level, and, at the same time, have their respect and attention," he remarked.

Margaret Graves, a senior at Aquinas Institute, 1127 Dewey Ave., Rochester, shares Borrromei's desire to become an educator, a career she plans to explore through studies at SUNY College at Brockport next fall. A member of the youth group at Holy Cross Parish, 4492 Lake Ave., Rochester, Graves has taught pre-school religious education at the parish since she was 9.

"The kids make it enjoyable because anything you

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