

# YOUTH FEATURE

## Hands of Christ expands to two services

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

**FAIRPORT** — "This is awesome. This is really awesome."

With those opening words to an overflow congregation, Bishop Matthew H. Clark got Hands of Christ proceedings off to a rousing start at St. John of Rochester Church this past Sunday, Oct. 2.

And, beginning this fall, the Hands of Christ awards ceremony has become a doubly "awesome" experience.

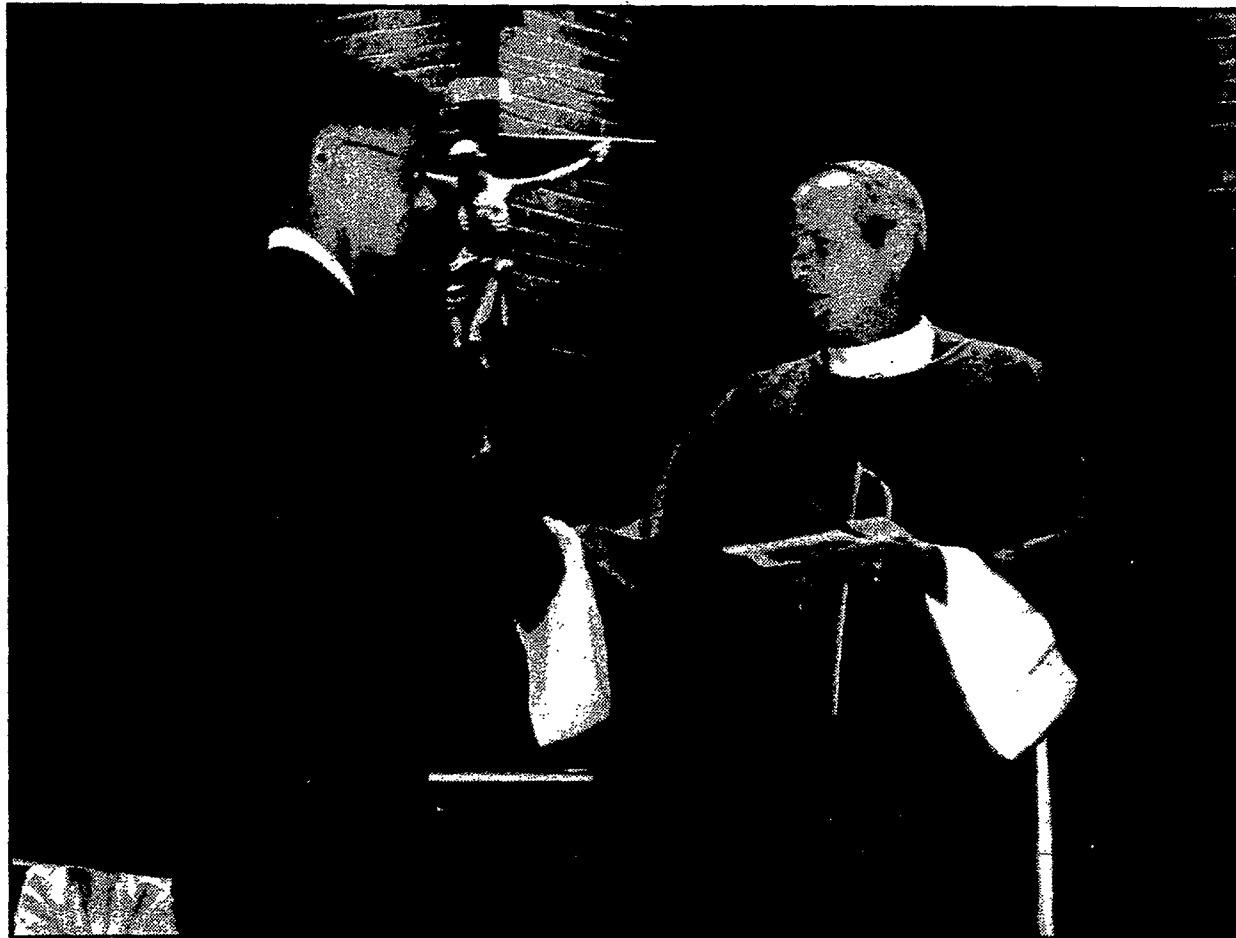
For the first time, this observance — held annually to recognize high-school seniors in the diocese who have exhibited outstanding service to their church and community — has been divided into two sections.

In addition to the one at St. John of Rochester, 18 Wickford Way, the Hands of Christ awards ceremony will make its debut in the Southern Tier this Sunday, Oct. 9, when Bishop Clark celebrates 2 p.m. Mass at Church of St. Mary Our Mother, 816 W. Broad St., Horseheads.

According to Michael Theisen, diocesan youth-ministry coordinator, the expansion of Hands of Christ was implemented for two reasons: crowd concerns and travel distance.

Theisen noted that even Rochester's spacious Sacred Heart Cathedral could not easily accommodate last year's Hands of Christ recipients, as well as their families and friends.

"It was packed. There were probably 1,000 people total," said Theisen.



**Daniel Munding, a parishioner at Rochester's Holy Rosary Church, receives his Hands of Christ award from Bishop Matthew H. Clark during an Oct. 2 ceremony at Fairport's St. John of Rochester Church.**

Wendy Longlade/Photo intern

Shorter distances will especially be a relief for those living in and around the Southern Tier. Theisen cited difficulties faced by Tier parishioners last Oct. 31, when a surprisingly forceful early-season snowstorm greeted them on their return trip from the Hands of Christ proceedings at Sacred Heart.

In addition, with the awards being moved from late to early October, Hands of Christ honorees can be recognized in their home parishes on World Youth

Christ awards into two sessions has apparently affected overall participation level as well. This year there are 330 Hands of Christ recipients, an all-time high and an increase of approximately 60 over 1993. The 330 seniors represent 70 diocesan parishes.

Theisen acknowledged that Bishop Clark did not hesitate to devote an additional Sunday for this cause. "Actually, it was the bishop's call," said Theisen. "He really enjoys his experience with the teens."

Sunday, scheduled for Oct. 23.

"This year, parishes were really encouraged to recognize (the recipients)," Theisen remarked.

For Colleen Vogt, another Hands of Christ ceremony meant the resolution of a scheduling conflict. She was originally slated to serve as eucharistic minister at the Fairport service, but discovered that she was also supposed to be a soloist with her local singing group that day. Now, Colleen, a parishioner of the St. Columba/St. Patrick Cluster in Caledonia and Mumford, will be able to make the Horseheads service and carry out her designated role.

"It's one hour to Fairport and two hours to Horseheads, so it's not that much of a difference," said Colleen, 17, a senior at Caledonia-Mumford High School.

Colleen added that she is extremely happy to still be included in the Hands of Christ proceedings.

"It's such an honor. It's so special," she commented.

Splitting the Hands of Christ awards into two sessions has apparently affected overall participation level as well. This year there are 330 Hands of Christ recipients, an all-time high and an increase of approximately 60 over 1993. The 330 seniors represent 70 diocesan parishes.

Theisen acknowledged that Bishop Clark did not hesitate to devote an additional Sunday for this cause. "Actually, it was the bishop's call," said Theisen. "He really enjoys his experience with the teens."

### Nazareth Academy schedules fashion show

ROCHESTER — A fashion show and luncheon will be presented by the Nazareth Academy Alumnae Association on Sunday, Oct. 23.

Titled "Broadway Matinee," the event will run from 1 to 4 p.m. Mod-

els will include members of the Nazareth Academy Alumnae Board; family and friends of board members; and Nazareth Academy students.

For location and ticket information, call 716/647-8720.

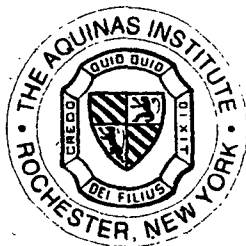
### Fruit, coupon-book sales to benefit Aquinas band

ROCHESTER — Orders are currently being taken for two sales to raise funds for the Aquinas Institute marching band.

A fruit sale, featuring oranges and

pink grapefruits, is underway. The marching band is also selling "Entertainment '95" discount coupon books. To place an order for grapefruits or coupon books, call 716/227-6563.

We have  
**A Tradition of Excellence...**



**THE AQUINAS INSTITUTE OF ROCHESTER**

Now we are  
**...Building the Future**

You are invited to join us for

OPEN HOUSE • THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1994 • 6:30 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.

The Aquinas Institute • 1127 Dewey Avenue • Rochester, New York 14613 • (716) 254-2020

THE FOUNDERS CLUB  
OF THE SISTERS OF MERCY OF ROCHESTER  
p r e s e n t s



**The Boys Choir of Harlem**

HOLIDAY SHOW

Sunday, December 4, 1994 • 3:00 PM

Eastman Theatre • 64 Gibbs S. • Rochester, NY

Tickets • \$29.50 • \$24.50 • \$19.50  
Special patron seating is also available

For tickets or further information, please contact  
Founders Club Office (716) 288-4817