

Vitality of grads permeates parish

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin
(Never known to fail) Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven. Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me show herein, you are my Mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother. Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. Holy Mother, I place this course in Your hands (say three times). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life You are with me. I want, in this short prayer, to thank You for things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from You in eternal glory. Thank you for Your mercy towards me and mine. A.J.D.

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

CANANDAIGUA — It was a service honoring not only triumphant endings, but also great beginnings.

For the 30 young men and women who donned their graduation robes for the annual St. Mary's Church baccalaureate Mass, held Sunday, June 18, their upcoming high-school graduation is just one of many noteworthy accomplishments.

This group, set to take part in Canandaigua Academy's commencement Saturday, June 24, has shown an exceptional commitment to parish involvement over the years.

Rather than be trained for their assigned roles at the baccalaureate Mass, the graduates-to-be simply performed duties they've already been carrying out for years: as lectors, altar servers, folk-group participants and eucharistic ministers.

One such person is Rosanne Colosi, 17, who has served as cantor at St. Mary's since she was 12.

"It just seems like this class wants to be involved in everything — not just in church, but in school, too," said Rosanne. "We're a class of leaders."

Monette Mahoney, the parish's faith-formation director, said these seniors have been largely responsible for a new wave of youth involvement at the parish.

"Several of them were also religious-education teachers. They have been role models for the kids who are coming up," Mahoney said.

She added that having the opportunity to serve one's parish at a young age is a key element of lifelong faith formation.

"If we want to retain our youth through their teen years, they have to see there's a role in the church for them throughout their life — not just when they hit 35," Mahoney observed.

Sharon Kollar, 18, pointed out that her fellow youths' noticeable presence at Sunday Masses has also helped convince parishioners to fund St. Mary's first-ever, full-time youth minister.

"A couple of years ago, people didn't even think we would have a youth minister or need one. I know a lot of people weren't really sure about giving extra money, but when they saw the youth involved, they figured it was a good idea," said Sharon, a eucharistic minister who also serves on the Diocesan Youth Committee.

Another eucharistic minister, 17-year-old Jon Duncan, noted that he and



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer
Canandaigua Academy graduates-to-be from St. Mary's Parish join hands during the Lord's Prayer at their June 18 baccalaureate Mass. Commencement will take place June 24.

other youth-group members drummed up support for a youth minister by stuffing flyers in Sunday bulletins and speaking at Sunday Masses.

(At the baccalaureate Mass, St. Mary's pastor Father Walter L. Wainwright announced that the parish's new youth minister is Thomas A. Tanchick, who currently serves in a similar capacity at Sacred Heart Cathedral and Greece's St. Charles Borromeo Church.)

Even though their future parish involvement will be limited by college

studies, Jon said his fellow seniors are proud of the foundation they've helped establish at St. Mary's.

"That was one of our main motivations — just to get something going," said Jon.

As he sat at the baccalaureate Mass last Sunday, Jon described his mood as "bittersweet."

"On the one hand I'm really excited with the summer coming and all the challenges. But on the other side, I'm going to really miss all these people," Jon remarked.

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Mercy camp in 26th year

BRIGHTON — Registration is currently being taken for Camp Silver Birch, a day camp operated by the Sisters of Mercy of Rochester.

The 26th-year program is open to boys and girls ages 5-10 and is held at Our Lady of Mercy High School, 1437 Blossom Road. Dates are July 3 to Aug. 4, with a maximum of two weeks allowed per camper.

Swimming, sports, games, arts, crafts and music are included in the \$80 fee. To register, call Sister Annette D'Amico, RSM, at 716/288-4480.

Summer charity events

The following organizations have notified the *Catholic Courier* of benefit sporting events coming up:

- July 14-16 — Teddi "T" Three-On-Three Basketball Tournament: downtown Rochester; to benefit Mendon's Camp Good Days and Special Times, Inc.; call 716/624-5555
- July 22-23 — Mark Dillon Memori-

al Softball Tournament: McAvoy Park, Irondequoit; men's and women's teams invited; \$100 per team; to benefit Camp Good Days and Special Times; call Pete Scorsone, 716/266-0112 or 277-2340.

Aug. 1 — Hillside Skins Challenge golf exhibition: Blue Heron Hills Country Club, Macedon; 12:30 p.m. start preceded by clinic; features PGA golfers Arnold Palmer, Jeff Sluman and Joey Sindelar; \$35; to benefit Hillside Children's Center, Rochester; call 716/244-4455.

Italian camp is offered

PITTSFORD — Applications are being taken for Casa Italiana's Italian Language and Culture Day Camp.

Sessions are July 10-14 for children ages 5-8, and July 24-28 for ages 9-12. This camp is held at Casa Italiana, located at Nazareth College, 4245 East Ave. Financial aid is available. For details, call 716/586-8744.

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