

YOUTH

Four 'Hands of Christ' helped rebuild youth group

By Mike Eatona
Staff writer

CANANDAIGUA — With their persistent telephone tactics, Sarah Meyer and Adam Savaria could easily pass for telemarketers.

They're also equipped with another essential of salesmanship: faith in the product.

In September of 1994, Sarah and Adam plunged into what ultimately became a very successful campaign — selling youth ministry to older high-school students in their parish, St. Stephen's of Geneva.

Although Sarah and Adam were entering their junior years of high school at the time, they found they had already become the oldest members of their youth group.

"I felt we could do a better job," remarked Adam, now a senior at Dundee Central High School. "I'd see huge groups at Geneseo (for the Diocesan Youth Convention), and they'd impress me so much."

So he and Sarah, a senior at Geneva High, assembled a list of potential St. Stephen's members and earnestly began hammering away.

The initial response was mixed, Sarah admitted.

"Some people were like, 'Eh, I don't think so.' And I said, 'Well, I'll keep bothering you!'" she recalled with a laugh. "We kept saying, 'We're going to get them, we're going to get them.'"

Slowly but surely, membership began to pick up as the youth group performed such fun service projects as a "Canned Food Scavenger Hunt," in which youths collected various items for charity.

In addition, the St. Stephen's teens made two visits to White Springs Manor, an adult residence in Geneva, and conducted weekly question-and-answer sessions among themselves on various religious topics.

Now St. Stephen's has sailed into the 1995-96 school year with approximately 20 members, many of whom are high-school juniors and seniors. The youth group is under the direction of Adam's father, Walter, who also serves as religious-education director at St. Stephen's.

Sarah's and Adam's pioneering efforts were recognized at the Hands of Christ awards presentation this past weekend. The annual diocesan ceremony — which honors high-school seniors showing ex-



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Bishop Matthew H. Clark presents a Hands of Christ Award to Adam Savaria, a parishioner of St. Stephen's Church in Geneva, during Sept. 30 ceremonies at St. Mary's Church in Canandaigua.

ceptional commitment to their parish and community — took place Saturday evening, Sept. 30, at St. Mary's Church in Canandaigua.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark celebrated Mass and issued plaques to each Hands of Christ recipient, both at St. Mary's and at St. John the Evangelist Church in Greece the following afternoon. The bishop will also preside at the third and final Hands of Christ ceremony, set for Oct. 15 at St. Mary's Church in Corning. Approximately 325 seniors from the diocese are being honored for the 1995-96 school year.

Although the Hands of Christ award is based on past service, Sarah said she doesn't plan to relax her efforts at St. Stephen's while also preparing to begin college next fall.

"I'm not going to stop helping out," she asserted.

Bishop Clark pointed out that intense dedication like that of Sarah and Adam is exactly the reason Hands of Christ nomi-

nations are sought from each diocesan parish.

"People in your communities noticed the good things you do for other people," the bishop told Saturday's recipients in Canandaigua.

Michael Theisen, diocesan youth-ministry coordinator, agreed: "We are all called, but we do not all respond. They did."

The HoneyBaked Ham® Now Available For Church Or School Fund Raisers!

We are making The HoneyBaked Ham available to churches and schools as a source for fund raising. We will give back a portion of the retail cost of our products to the fund raiser and will donate order forms and other support material to help in the sales effort.

- ◆ Better than the overused cake sale or car wash. Easy to implement. Requires very little effort.
- ◆ The Ham is fully-cooked, sliced and ready to serve. Available only at The HoneyBaked Ham Company Store...or through your fund raiser.
- ◆ For more information, call our store nearest you.



HONEYBAKED HAM
COMPANY

Greece - 2695 West Ridge Road 716-225-7500

"CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGES"

For INDIVIDUALS &/or GROUPS
Departing from Rochester

1996 CATHOLIC SPIRITUAL PILGRIMAGES
Presented By
'QUEEN OF PEACE MINISTRY'



• January - December 1996 •

'Queen of Peace Ministry'
'Catholic Pilgrimages'
For New 88-Page Color Brochure,
Call: 1-800-321-MARY (6279)

From Athens - Zagreb and most major cities in between from \$495 R/T (NY/NY) - plus taxes call: 1-800-411-FARE (3273)

DESTINATION SHRINES INCLUDE:

- Assisi
- Lourdes
- Fatima
- Guadalupe
- Paris
- San Giovanni
- Betania
- Medjugorje
- Garabandal
- Holyland
- Rome
- & More!

"I invite you to join me in Jerusalem in 1996 for the 3000th Anniversary Celebrations."
— Pat Boone —