

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Area Catholics celebrate with pope

By Lee Strong  
Associate editor

Margaret Smock had one word to describe her experience of Pope John Paul II's Oct. 4-8 visit to the United States: Awesome.

The word came up again and again as Smock, a member of Webster's Holy Trinity Parish, recalled her encounter — albeit, a distant one — with the pope along with an estimated 75,000 other people during the Oct. 6 Mass at Aqueduct Racetrack in Queens.

"For me, it was a very awesome experience," declared Smock, a resident of the Wayne County community of Ontario. "He impresses you. I was in awe of him."

Ellen Fagan of Holy Cross Parish in Dryden/Freeville used a few different words to describe her experience of seeing the pope — but she was equally enthusiastic.

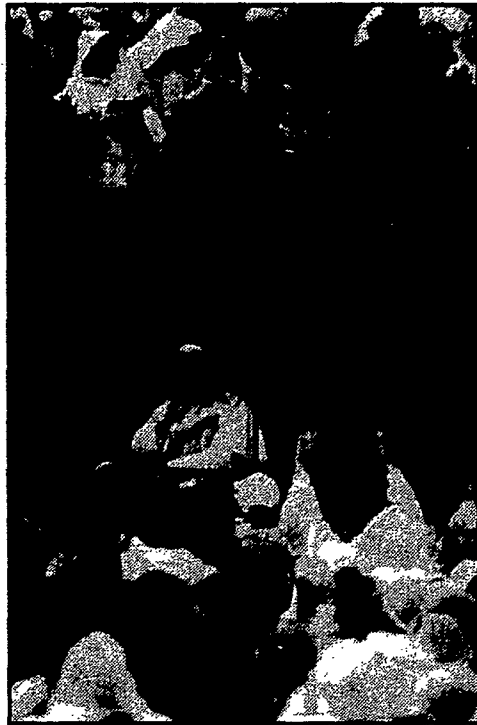
"Just to see him really was just a beautiful experience," noted Fagan, who joined an estimated crowd of 125,000 celebrating Mass with the pope at Central Park Oct. 7. "It's something I would recommend everyone to get a chance to do."

Meanwhile, Francis Flugel of St. Dominic's Parish, Shortsville, said he was moved by his opportunity to be part of the Central Park Mass.

"Knowing that the whole world wanted to be a part of it, I was just really grateful that I was there," Flugel said.

Smock, Fagan and Flugel were among the people of the Diocese of Rochester who took advantage of free tickets to see the pope celebrate Mass at that racetrack or at Central Park.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark also was present at both Masses. In addition, he took part in the pope's direction of evening prayers at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers on Oct. 6; the Holy Father's recitation of the rosary at St. Patrick's Cathedral Oct. 7; and at a dinner with



Michael Okoniewski/CNS

**Pope John Paul II gestures to the crowd before celebrating Mass at Giants Stadium in New Jersey, Thursday, Oct. 5.**

the pope, members of his entourage, U.S. cardinals and the New York state bishops at Cardinal John O'Connor's residence that same night.

Although he has met with the pope on many occasions, Bishop Clark says he is still impressed by the man. He cited in particular the pope's dedication to traveling around the world to visit the faithful.

"One thing that astounds me is the claims it makes on his energy and his time," Bishop Clark said. "I don't know how he does it."

While attending papal events, Bishop Clark said he found himself energized by the people coming to see the pope.

"I find myself more inclined to watch the people who are with him at any given moment," Bishop Clark said.

During the Central Park Mass, for

example, Pope John Paul II quoted from and began to sing a Polish Christmas carol. In response, the congregation later sang a verse of "Silent Night" in English.

"To me, it spoke of the connection he made to the people, and it showed they understand his message," Bishop Clark remarked.

Fagan happened to be gathered with a group of Polish people when the pope sang the Polish carol.

"They started singing (along with him in Polish), and he just beamed," Fagan reported.

Smock sensed the diversity of the crowd at the Mass she attended — and said it strengthened her understanding of the church.

"Now I know what is truly universal about the church," Smock said. "To turn around and reach out a hand at the sign of peace — I was reaching out to somebody I didn't know. It was beautiful."

Amid the celebrations, the pope made a point of returning to some key messages, including the sanctity of life and the importance of the family.

Bishop Clark suggested that these and other topics the Holy Father touched on during his visit arise out of key themes that have guided his papacy, the first of which "is the unrepeatable, distinct dignity of each person. That has been the overarching theme of his pontificate."

While they have heard these messages before, Fagan, Smock and Flugel all felt inspired as a result of seeing the pope.

"There were times when I just stood and cried," Fagan acknowledged. "(The pope) stood there and he was waving — and you almost got the feeling he was waving at you."

"I felt he came and gave us the message, and he told us how to live it, and what is our basic faith," Smock said. "I just felt that he rejuvenated me."

"I try to be pretty devout as it is, but I feel it bolstered my confidence to know what is the truth and to stick by it," Flugel said. "It gave me a shot in the arm."

## Speaker stresses spiritual leadership of teens

CANANDAIGUA — Teenagers and young adults go through a deep searching process in many areas of their lives — and the Catholic faith journey is no exception, according to nationally recognized lecturer Tom Zanzig.

Therefore, he emphasized, it's vital for adult leaders to give spiritual affirmation at a time younger Catholics may have begun to question their faith.

"I would like (the teens) to know they've encountered an adult who deeply loves Jesus," Zanzig remarked. "I would love it if kids leave the program saying, 'I don't know what that person's got, but I want it.'"

Zanzig, an author and editor from St. Mary's Press in Winona, Minn., met with 60 diocesan youth ministers and religious-education coordinators Sept. 20-21 at Notre Dame Retreat House.

During his series of workshops, Zanzig broke down the development of Catholic

identity into four stages:

"Experienced" and "affiliated" faith (childhood through junior-high age), during which aspects of the Catholic faith are experienced and memorized but not yet understood;

"Searching" faith (mid-adolescent through young adult), when the potential for alienation is at its highest;

"Owned" faith (young adult and older), through which those who remain with the Catholic faith freely accept church tradition and teachings.

Bringing teens to this sense of ownership of their faith is a tremendous challenge in the post-Vatican II Catholic Church, Zanzig pointed out.

"How do we help young people take on their own Catholic identity in a church that's struggling to find its own identity?" he pondered.

A good approach, he noted, is simply to offer support as teens make difficult

decisions.


"The time they most need (support) is when they're least connected," he said.

Betsie Heffernan, youth minister at St. Cecilia's Church in Irondequoit, said she was struck by Zanzig's call for adult leaders to not only teach, but also to serve as caring, loving role models.

"It put into focus where the kids we affect are on this journey — we know that what they might need is a warm, hospitable atmosphere," Heffernan said.

Bob Perry, who assists his wife Bonnie with youth ministry at Ithaca's Immaculate Conception Church, said Zanzig reinforced his viewpoint that Catholics are "becoming more realistic" about educating young people in the church by "eliminating the rigidity."

—Mike Latona



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## CHD grant application available from offices

ROCHESTER — Application materials for 1996 Campaign for Human Development grants are now available from the Diocese of Rochester.

The campaign funds projects that enable people of all races, creeds, geographic regions and backgrounds to work together for long-range solutions to poverty in the areas of social and economic development, housing, health, legal aid, education and communication.

To qualify, projects must be controlled by groups that have at least 50-percent membership by low-income citizens.

This year, CHD especially seeks innovative projects that address basic causes of poverty by effecting changes in laws, policies and institutions, and projects designed to develop economic strength and political power within low-income communities.

Grant requests are typically more than \$10,000; the average national grant size is \$28,800.

Established in 1970 by the U.S. bishops, CHD is funded by an annual collection taken up in parishes throughout the country. Last year, CHD distributed \$7.4 million in grants to 225 projects.

All groups interested in applying for CHD grants are required to submit pre-applications by November 1, 1995. Projects that meet the minimum criteria and guidelines will be encouraged to submit full applications by Jan. 31, 1996.

For pre-application forms, contact the following diocesan administrators:

Chris Wilkins, Finger Lakes Social Ministry, 110 Exchange St., Geneva, N.Y. 14456 (315/789-2686).

Linda McAllister, Social Policy & Research, Catholic Family Center, 25 Franklin St., 7th Floor, Rochester, N.Y. 14604 (716/262-7020).

Kathy Dubel, Catholic Charities of the Southern Tier, 1700 College Ave., Elmira, N.Y. 14901 (607/734-9784).

## World Food Day slated for Rochester Oct. 15

ROCHESTER — The United Nations World Food Day Festival will take place on Saturday, Oct. 15, at the corner of North Clinton Avenue and Kelly Street in the Upper Falls District.

The free festival will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and feature food activities and displays, music and dance performances, and games and activities for children.

For information, call Food for People at 716/271-4007.

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