Greece teens strive to serve at holiday time

By Mike Latona Staff writer

GREECE – Not living in poverty and isolation is no excuse for being oblivious to it

That's the philosophy shared by three teenaged parishioners at St. Charles Borromeo Church who participate regularly in causes to help people in need. In the upcoming weeks, their dedication will be at its peak as they prepare for various holiday service projects.

"Family is really important to people at holiday time, and a lot of people don't have family. So we become their family. They know somebody cares," said Heather Termine, 17.

Heather and her fraternal twin Dan are gearing up for a Thanksgiving food drive and Christmas gift-giving project being coordinated by their parents, Kathy and Michael, social-ministry directors at St. Charles Borromeo.

Kathy Termine is also director of residential services for the diocesan Department of Catholic Charities.

For Thanksgiving, Heather and Dan are helping to collect and distribute food items for the poor. Those goods are currently being placed under a statue of St. Joseph near the church altar after Sunday Masses. When that effort is completed, the Termines will turn their attention to the Christmas "giving tree" through which parishioners provide gifts for people residing in group and adult homes.

Meanwhile, Katie Holden, 17, has begun a holiday project through her National Honor Society at Greece Olympia High School, where she is a senior. The honor society will provide Thanksgiving dinner for three families in the Rochester area.

Katie got her first taste of involvement in causes such as these last year. She volunteered at a Rochester soup kitchen with the youth group from St. Charles Borromeo in the fall of 1994, and also helped serve Thanksgiving dinner to guests at a similar facility in Utica on Thanksgiving Day last year.

Katie pointed out that there's a lesson to be learned from the welcoming attitudes she encountered from the meal recipients she served.

"They were really open to anything you gave them," Katie acknowledged. "They can still be so kind, and it makes you wonder why people who have grown up with so much can't be just as kind."



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

St. Charles Borromeo parishioners Heather (left) and Dan Termine are preparing for a Thanksgiving food drive and Christmas gift- giving project, while Katie Holden will be providing dinner for three Rochester families through her National Honor Society at Greece Olympia High School.

Dan Termine pointed out that poverty is also an issue that extends into the suburbs. He noted that a portion of his parish's Thanksgiving project will provide meals for people who attend his Greece church.

"The appearance on the outside is that the area is beautiful. But not all the people who go here are middle class and everything's fine," Dan commented.

Meanwhile, Heather is already leaning toward a career in helping the disadvantaged after she and Dan graduate from Greece Arcadia High School in June. Heather plans a college major in human services, with a focus on assisting juvenile delinquents.

"I feel as if I've lived a good life and they may not have, so I want to help them out," she remarked.

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Paul-Martin Maki is Director of Music of Saint John Episcopal Church in Larchmont, New York and has been a member of the organ faculty of the Manhattan School of Music in New York City for the past twenty years. He holds the degree Doctor of Musical Arts in Organ together with the Performer's Certificate in Organ from the Eastman School of Music and the Diploma (highest honors) from the Schola Cantorum in Paris where he was a Fulbright stipendiary of the United

States Government.

He has studied the north German Baroque literature extensively in master classes with Harald Vogel. His doctoral dissertation on the chorale fantasies of Max Reger reflects his interest in the late romantic repertoire for the performance of which he is widely acclaimed. Dr. Maki served as the consultant for the stop list and tonal finishing of the newly installed Konzelman Pipe Organ, opus 15, in Saint Anne Church, Rochester, New York.