

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## Gates girl's brief life touched world beyond home

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

**GATES** - When friends and family talk about Angeli Marie McCabe, who died Jan. 6 at the age of 14, they use the word "miracle" over and over again.

Maybe that's because "Angel," as she was known, seemed to hover between this world and the next for so long, and for reasons no one can explain.

"We were hoping for a miracle, but I guess just having her here was a miracle," said Betsy McCabe, who, with her husband, James, adopted their granddaughter Angel late last year, changing her last name from Ramos.

Angel was predeceased by her parents Karen Turtu and Jaime Ramos.

Along with their son, James II, and a host of friends and supporters, the McCabes had taken care of Angel since she was injured in August 1990. She was in Betsy's car when it was struck by an automobile whose driver ran a stop sign.

Sitting in the back seat and strapped by a seat belt, the little girl suffered severe brain trauma. Immediately after the accident she could only move her eyes. When she died, her grandmother said, it was because her heart finally gave out.

After 15 months in rehabilitation, Angel moved in with the McCabes, who received financial support from their parish, St. Theodore's, and from James II's employer, Delco Products Division of General Motors in Rochester. The money the parish and the company raised paid for renovating the McCabes' garage into a room specially equipped for Angel.

A frequent visitor to that room was Dee Fields. A licensed practical nurse with Nurse Finders, she tended to Angel's needs for 3.5 years. She noted that she, like



Courtesy of McCabe Family  
Angel Marie McCabe poses with Bishop Matthew H. Clark in 1988 before her August 1990 accident.

the McCabes, had hoped for Angel's recovery.

"I was very heartbroken because I did expect a miracle in my heart," she said.

Fields last saw Angel the night of Jan. 4. Fields said the child, who used her eyes to communicate with the nurse, seemed to want more hugs from her than normal.

"I said to the family, 'Angel won't let me eat,'" Fields said. "It was almost two hours of hugging."

Since those turned out to be her last moments with Angel, Fields didn't regret missing her dinner.

"Even though she was sick, she always had that sparkle in her eye," the nurse said.

St. Theodore's celebrated a Mass of the Resurrection for Angel Jan. 11, and a capacity crowd showed up. Her body was later interred at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Rochester.

Among those who spoke at the Mass was Angel's friend from her days at St. Theodore's School, Karen Cringoli, now a freshman at Our Lady of Mercy High School in Brighton. Along with three other friends of Angel's, Cringoli plans to take "Angeli" as her confirmation name this year to honor her friend.

"She was one of the kindest people I had ever known," Karen said. "She never had anything negative to say."

Despite her disappointment over losing her friend, Karen was philosophical.

"It was hard, but I was glad she was in a better place," she said.

Sister Edith Francione, RSM, a friend of the McCabes, also said she was hoping for a miraculous recovery. But now that Angel is gone, Sister Francione pointed out that the real miracle Angel left behind was the huge community of caring people created when Angel was injured, a community more aware of life's sacredness and unity.

"I really think people who visited that home never left without being uplifted," she said.

## Catholic school student among teen assault victims

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

**ROCHESTER** — No arrest has been made in connection with the sexual assault of three teenaged girls — including one Catholic-school student — on Rochester's west side last month.

According to Officer Cheryl Franks, a spokesperson for the Rochester Police Department, one person is suspected of committing the assaults. Each attack occurred as students were waiting at school bus stops or walking to school.

Franks confirmed Jan. 22 that no one had been arrested in the cases. She declined to say if any suspects had been identified.

Diocesan schools Superintendent Timothy Dwyer confirmed that at least one of the assault victims was a student attending a Catholic school. He did not identify which school.

The attacks were first made public in a Jan. 12 article in the Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle* newspaper. Later that day, a press conference brought together city police, city school officials, and Dwyer to address the situation.

Franks explained that information was not made public at the time of the December attacks because the offender

"could have been frightened off and gone into deeper hiding" due to the publicity. She also said the Rochester Police Department did not want to cause alarm for the community as the investigation was getting underway. She added that, on the same day the Jan. 12 *Democrat and Chronicle* article appeared, city police were planning to announce that the assaults had taken place.

Dwyer said he knew of the assaults at least 10 days prior to the press conference, but cooperated with the police department's request to keep the matter confidential.

"Not being an expert in criminal investigation, I yielded to their judgment," he said.

He added that most parents' complaints about the delay have been directed at the police department, along with "a few to the public schools and very few to us."

In a memo sent last week to all Catholic elementary, middle and high schools in Monroe County, Dwyer instructed principals to alert students' parents and guardians about the attacks. The memo also reviewed four safety procedures to help prevent further incidents:

- Do not walk to, or wait at, bus stops alone.

- If someone bothers you, run somewhere such as a store.

- Report anyone acting suspiciously.
- Do not accept rides with strangers.

Franks added that students should walk to school or bus stops with other children or parents, and should stand in well-lit areas.

Dwyer noted that public school districts are responsible for transporting Catholic school students to schools within a 1.5- to 15-mile distance.

Although the attacks have bred increased concern for children's safety, Dwyer said the offender does not appear to be singling out students attending Catholic schools.

"At this point, it's nothing more than coincidence that a Catholic school student was involved," Dwyer said. "There has not been an incident (on the city's west side) in the past three or four weeks. It's not something that happens with great regularity."

### THE MONTHLY PRAYER REQUEST FOR PRIESTS

#### Prayer for Vocations

Lord our God, in your great love you have called us from nothingness into being. Through Jesus Christ your Child, who is the way, the truth and the life, you have called us to walk on the road of perfection, and to consecrate ourselves to you and to the service of all people, whom you have created for life and glory.

To those who are called to a life of faith in the midst of the world, give the grace of witness to the Gospel.

To those who are called to the life of Christian perfection, give the grace of contemplation, understanding of the will of God, and zeal for his righteousness and charity.

To those who are called to service in the ordained ministries, give the grace of your Holy Spirit to nourish and strengthen their brothers and sisters in the way of the Lord.

Indeed, grant to all of us the gifts of witness, of perfection, and of service.

Give us the power to carry the cross of discipleship, the peace to discern our true calling, and the gift of communion with you through prayer and love.

Lord, we can do nothing without the grace of your Holy Spirit, uphold those who have been sealed with the gift of your Spirit, and pour forth an abundance of gifts for the building up of your Kingdom. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Master of the harvest, send laborers to your Church to gather the harvest of faith, for you are the Giver of Life, and we give glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

### FEBRUARY, 1996

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Look for next month's MPRP Calendar in the February 29th Catholic Courier						
		Reverend Fathers:	Robert C. McNamara	Donald E. McCarthy, CSB	William C. Marceau, CSB	
4 Daniel F. Holland	5 Robert Gaudio	6 Joseph T. Gaynor	7 James C. Enright	8 David J. Faraone	9 Paul F. English, CSB	10 Frederick F. Eisemann
11 James R. Cosgrove	12 John Denburger, OCSO	13 John A. DeSocio	14 Martin Boler, OSB	15 David L. Bonin	16 Lewis E. Brown, CHC	17 Albert Cyhwicki, CSB
18 James Cronin, OSB	19 William J. Gordinier	20 William E. Graf	21 Timothy E. Horan	22 Timothy F. Keating, CSsR	23 William F. Laird	24 James J. Marvth
25 Thomas F. McManus, SJ	26 Edwin B. Metzger	27 Kevin P. Murphy	28 John E. Roach	29 David Steindl-Rast, OSB	"Heart of Jesus and Mary, pray for us."	

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