

on the MOVE

TREKKING TO

STORY BY STAFF WRITER MIKE LATONA

You may not know your plans for four *hours* from now, let alone four years. But as far as Heather Kreuzer is concerned, it's none too soon to start thinking about the year 2000.

"I graduate in 1999, and when I start college I'm going to be a part of it," said Heather, 14, a parishioner in the Catholic Community of Mt. Morris and Nunda.

Heather views the end of this second 1,000-year period — known as a millennium — as a time of renewal while waiting for the official beginning of the next millennium on Jan. 1, 2001.

"There's going to be a lot of changes — political, economical, just everything. Over in the third world, they need a lot of help," Heather commented.

Katie Contino, 15, thinks the Catholic Church should also view the millennium as a time of change. For instance, Katie wishes that Pope John Paul II — despite his strong stance against women's ordination — would utilize the year 2000 to reconsider his position.

"Right now we're in the process of losing our priests," explained Katie, a parishioner at St. Patrick's Church in Macedon. "In 2000 years, the Catholic Church has been male dominated. But I think a woman can perform any job a man can perform."

Bryan Snyder feels that an increase in church laity is as vital as an increase in vocations.

"The church needs to be more in-

involved in getting new people to become members," asserted Bryan, 15, from St. Joseph's Church in Wayland.

Meanwhile, Margaret Rickard looked specifically at her own age group for bringing healthy changes to the church.

"I'd like to see more teens involved in the church. In the year 2000, it would be nice to have more participation," said Margaret, 16, a parishioner at St. Louis Church in Pittsford. "We have 300 teens at our parish, but only 20 who participate in senior-high youth group."

Margaret's viewpoint meshes with the pope's plea for youths to view themselves as future leaders of the Catholic Church. In his November 1994 apostolic letter "As the Third Millennium Draws Near," the pope wrote:

"The future of the world and the church belongs to the younger generation, to those who born in this century will reach maturity in the next, the first century of the new millennium," the pope stated. "Christ expects great things from young people ... if they succeed in following the road which Christ points out to them, they will have the joy of making their own contribution to his presence in the next century and in the centuries to come."

These words reflect the pope's vision of a strong, enduring Catholic Church in the 21st century. On the other hand, anniversary years are also prime times for predictions and fears about Christ returning to earth, or the world being destroyed.

"I've heard so many projections of the world ending. It's a lot of junk to a lot of people," Bryan remarked. "The only one who knows that is



From left to right: Margaret Rickard, Bryan Snyder and

God, I guess."

"People in the years 100 and 200 thought Jesus was going to return, too. It could be 100,000, who knows?," added Mike Schmitt, 16, from Greece's Our Mother of Sorrows Church.

Mike explained that 2,000 years may be a long time to many of us, but perhaps not in God's plan.

"I think this is maybe a very early stage of civilization. Maybe God wants to see how faithful we'll be when there's men on the moon," Mike remarked.

Heather, also, disregards talk about the world ending.

"We've been around this long, so it's not just going to stop. There's too much to be done," she said.

Margaret, while agreeing with

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