

# FEATURE

## New Livingston group draws from wide area



**Young Adult**  
MONTHLY FEATURE

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

MOUNT MORRIS — For Jerry Rolison, the first-year young-adult group at St. Patrick's Church has marked a reunion of sorts.

"There are a lot of people I've known my whole life — I've gone to school with them and gone to church with them — but I've never really gotten to know them," Rolison commented.

Kelly Hallinen added that young adults view the meetings as a comfortable vehicle for sharing "the importance of God in their lives."

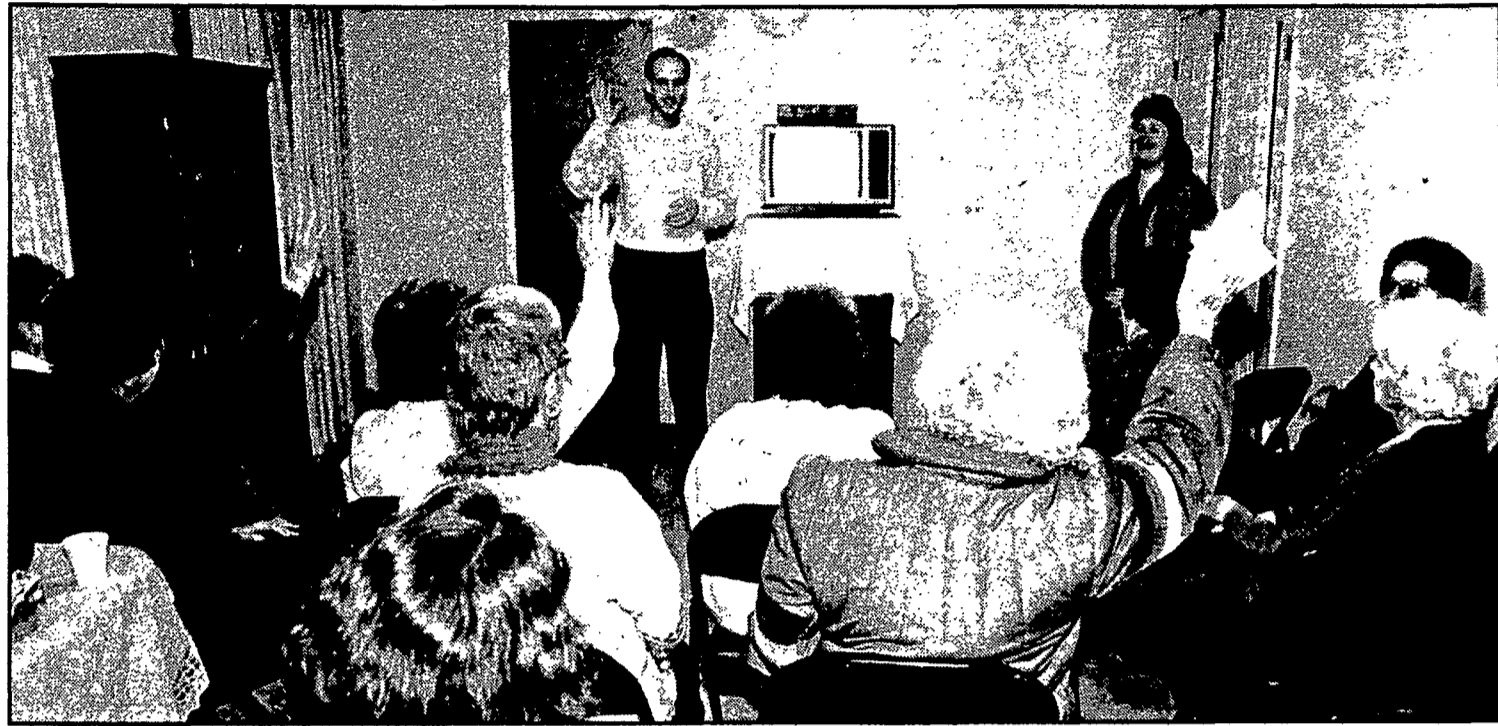
"You see them in church but you don't know enough about them, or how they feel," Hallinen explained.

Debbie Cross noted that the meetings provide opportunities not only for prayer, but also for offering opinions about religious matters.

"Everyone is very honest about what's going on. It's a little more free-thinking," Cross said.

Rolison, Hallinen and Cross form the group's core team. Although all three are parishioners in the Catholic Community of Mount Morris and Nunda, the group also enjoys participants from a wide range of communities. Young-adult members have traveled to St. Patrick's — located in central Livingston County — from both near (Geneseo and Avon) and far (Bloomfield, Farmington and Rochester).

Rolison added that the coalition's welcoming spirit is ecumenical as well as ge-



Steve Lape and Deborah Cross answer questions before a showing of "Dead Man Walking" sponsored by the St. Patrick, Mount Morris, young adult group.

Kurt Brownell

ographical. "This group doesn't center so much on discussion of things to the point where people who aren't in the (Catholic) religion feel uncomfortable," Rolison said.

The young-adult group got off the ground this past summer through the efforts of Steve Lape, a seminarian-intern at the cluster, which includes Holy Angels Church in Nunda. After Lape completes his one-year stint this May, he will return to St. Augustine's Seminary in Toronto in the fall.

Events sponsored by the group average 10 to 15 people but have drawn as high as 24. Participants include men and women who, according to Lape, fall into the age range of "past high school to thirtysomething."

Sunday-evening meetings are held an average of twice per month. Activities include free pasta dinners, movie nights and video nights. For instance, the group

reviewed the movie "Dead Man Walking" on Jan. 12 — and then traveled to Rochester three nights later to attend a lecture by Sister Helen Prejean, SSJ, whose book inspired the movie.

The Mount Morris contingent occasionally meets with similar organizations from the Rochester area. In November, the group joined young adults at Blessed Sacrament Church in Rochester for a discussion on the video "When Bad Things Happen to Good People."

Lape noted that his young adults are looking forward to a winter picnic at Letchworth State Park and more Bible discussions in the near future.

The seminarian added that he antici-

pates continued progress for the young-adult group after he returns to seminary.

"Now that we have some 'regulars,' they'll be able to take the helm and carry on afterward," he said. "It'll be kind of exciting to see how it grows."

Cross echoed Lape's enthusiasm.

"He's exposing us to other groups so that when he leaves, we won't throw our hands up in the air and say, 'It was good, but now it's over,'" Cross commented.

EDITORS' NOTE: For further details about the young-adult coalition at St. Patrick's, or to be placed on the group's mailing list, call Steve Lape at 716/658-2110.



Matthew Scott/Staff photographer

### Catholics on ice

The Diocesan Young Adult Planning Committee held an ice skating party at the RIT ice rink Jan. 18. This was the first event sponsored by the committee since its inception in late 1996. Karen Deford (above) reaches for the railing with the help of her husband Dan. Nearly 30 people laced up for the event.



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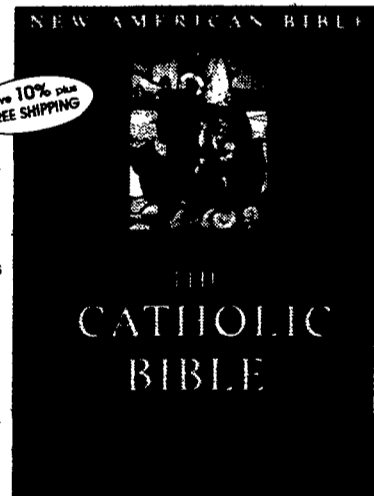
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