

Youth-group members in Rochester's Roman Catholic Community of the 19th Ward have rolled out the red carpet for Kathryn Fullison.



A Newcomer No Longer

by Kathryn Brownell

...out their church when they moved to Ontario County two years ago from Houston, Texas. They are parishioners at St. Patrick's Church in Victor.

Nathan, 16, and Nicole, 12, said they made friends quickly through the parish religious-education program.

"There were a lot of new faces at school, but if I saw them at church and at CCD it was easier to get to know them because I'd see them more often," Nathan said.

Youths in religious-education class, Nicole added, "have more of the same interests as I do."

Nathan credited Marsha Foote, St. Patrick's religious-education coordinator, for helping his social circle grow by frequently inviting him to youth-related events.

Such invitations, the Rickard sisters noted, can be especially meaningful if they come from former newcomers such as themselves.

"I've been able to help people because of what I've learned," Margaret said. "Now that I have a lot of friends, sometimes I say, 'Why would I want to make more friends?' And then I remember what it was like to not have any friends."

"You see people by themselves, and it brings those feelings right back to you," Kate remarked. "So I always try to introduce myself. I've learned a lot about how I should treat people, and how I would like to be treated."

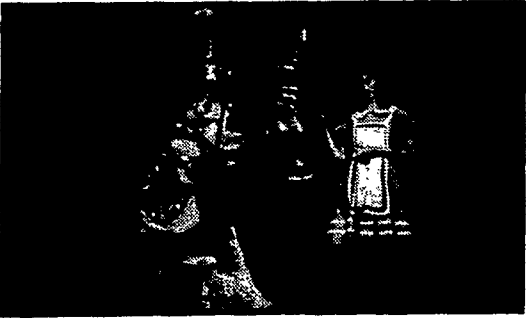
Kathryn, also, feels a special connection with new kids in town.

"If I saw someone I didn't recognize, I would say, 'Hey, my name's Kathryn.' If they didn't come (to a youth-group meeting), you didn't lose anything — and if they *did* come, you might help them out," Kathryn stated. "You'd have a new friend."

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