

DIOCESAN NEWS

Obituaries

Brannon Smith, 20; illness captured public's attention

PITTSFORD — Following the Eucharist at Brannon Smith's funeral Mass April 1, several of his former high-school classmates rose and sang a moving rendition of "Amazing Grace."

Brannon's courageous battle with cancer had struck a deep chord with people all over the world. He had faced his battle with an amazing grace, according to his eulogizers at Church of the Transfiguration.

Brannon died on March 27, 1997, at the age of 20. He had suffered from a malignant bone tumor known as Ewing's Sarcoma since July 1992.

During the funeral Mass, celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark, all who spoke about Brannon described him as a good friend who never pitied himself because of his illness.

"Brannon brought the best out in people. He made you want to be better," said Father Anthony Mugavero, pastor of St. Bridget's Church in Rochester, who served as homilist. "He had a love for life, a zest for life that rubbed off ... he didn't dwell, he didn't complain. Brannon was-



port. Father Lawrence Searles, SJ, former chaplain at McQuaid Jesuit High School,

n't seen as someone with cancer, he was seen simply as a friend."

Brannon's illness became public knowledge in 1993, when he launched an appeal for prayer sup-

ported. Father Lawrence Searles, SJ, former chaplain at McQuaid Jesuit High School, circulated flyers containing a handwritten plea for prayer by Brannon on one side, and a novena to Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha on the other.

Brannon, a 1994 McQuaid graduate, had hoped his cure would be the miracle that would promote Blessed Kateri, a Native American, to sainthood.

The appeal triggered an overwhelming response from well-wishers all over the United States, and other countries.

"People have come out of the blue. People I've never met before, or never been close to, have sent cards and letters," Brannon said in a 1993 *Catholic*

Courier article.

Brannon is survived by his parents, Robert and Kathleen; sister, Marissa and her fiance Todd Schofield; sister, Brie; grandfather, Arthur; grandparents, Richard and Mary Rose Carreo; and several aunts, uncles and cousins. Interment was at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Victor.

Memorial donations may be sent to the McQuaid Jesuit Scholarship Fund, 1800 Clinton Ave. S., Rochester, N.Y., 14618; or to the Jesuit Martyr Shrine at Auriesville, N.Y., 12016, in honor of Blessed Kateri.

- Mike Latona

Sister M. Vincetta Yuskewicz, SSND; longtime teacher

Sister M. Vincetta Yuskewicz, who entered the School Sisters of Notre Dame from Holy Redeemer Parish, Rochester, died April 14, 1997, at Bridgeport Hospital, Bridgeport, Conn. She was 86.

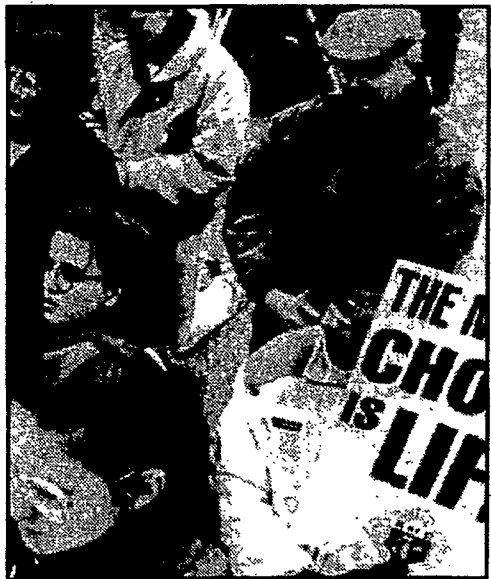
Born Feb. 2, 1911, in Lithuania, Sister Vincetta professed as a School Sister Aug.

10, 1934. Between 1934 and 1988 she served as principal and/or teacher at a number of schools in Maryland, New York and New Jersey. She moved to the SSND motherhouse in Wilton, Conn., in 1993, and retired in 1995.

The funeral Mass for Sister Vincetta

was celebrated April 17 at the SSND motherhouse chapel. Interment was in St. Mary Cemetery, Bethel, Conn.

Donations in Sister Vincetta's memory may be made to the SSND Development Fund, 345 Belden Road, Wilton, Conn. 06897.



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