

Sister Dennie ends run with St. Lawrence play



played Mary of Bethany.



"Little Kid Dancers," left to right, Meghan Bauer, second grade, Andrew Cholewa, third grade, Julie Santandrea, third grade, and Jonathan Budnick, first grade.



Marilena Sarra, upper left, congratulates writer and producer Sister Diane Dennie, SSJ, principal of St. Lawrence School.

In 1979, Sister Diane Dennie, SSJ, principal of St. Lawrence School in Greece, wrote a "A Gospel of Welcome," a play that mixes singing, dancing and speaking parts based on the life of Jesus. With the help of her students and faculty, she's put on the play biannually since 1980. Kindergartners help decorate the stage, parents volunteer with making costumes, building sets and other activities, and the play is performed by every kid in grades one to eight.

"A Gospel of Welcome" was designed to give students the chance to celebrate Jesus' love, Sister Dennie said. The students rehearsed it daily through Lent, and performed it five times this year — on the mornings of April 1, 2 and 3 and the evenings of April 5 and 6.

Sister Diane said this year's production was particularly meaningful to her because it's also her last year at the school where she's been principal since 1976. She plans to complete a master of theology program at St. Bernard's Institute in Rochester next year, and then move to parish work, she said.

"I feel pretty good," she said. "I'm happy with the pageant. It means creating opportunities for big and little kids to interact with each other."

"I think the older children have a sense of responsibility for the little ones," she added. "The little kids are getting a lot of attention from the bigger kids. It shows them how much they are valued."

Photos by
Greg Francis

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