

# MOVING ON THE



Greg Francia/Staff photographer

Runners begin the Run for the Young race May 9 at St. Lawrence Church, N. Greece Road, Greece.

GREECE — Justin Pritchard competes in scholastic football and wrestling, but admits that road races aren't his strong suit. In fact, he almost backed out on his plans to take part in the May 9 Run for the Young.

"My mom had to kind of twist my arm," Justin said.

But Justin was wearing a proud smile after he successfully completed the five-kilometer race, finishing 123rd out of 251 runners.

"I thought I was going to die out there, but once I got my second wind I was OK," Justin, 14, remarked.

Justin's parish, St. Lawrence, served as host for the second Run for the Young, an annual event that raises funds to

support diocesan youth programs. The race's course, winding through the streets of western Greece, began and ended at St. Lawrence.

Also included in the festivities was a one-mile "fitness walk" — an option that



Bishop Matthew Clark, praying for the runners before the race, is steadied on his chair by race official Mike Thelsen.



Mike Hauss, a parishioner of St. Charles Borromeo Church, Greece, cools off after finishing the race.

was welcomed by at least one participant.

"I am not ever running again. I'm not making that mistake like I did last year," a walker remarked prior to the event.

On the other hand, Nate Ward — who had just run a half-marathon (13.1 miles) in Louisville, Ky., one month earlier — said the Run for the Young was actually too short for him.

"It was tough to run fast because I've been doing a lot of distance running. But I did all right," Nate said, explaining that he's accustomed to a slower pace for longer distances. Nate, 16, who attends Our Mother of Sorrows Church in Greece, finished 20th in the run.

The overall winner was Felix Cheruiyot of Brockport with a time of 16 minutes, 36 seconds. The women's winner was Linda Grossman of Rochester, who completed the course in 18:08 and placed 10th overall. They, along with several age-group winners, were presented with medals.

And who was that tall, athletic-looking runner entered in the men's age 60-65 division? None other than Bishop Matthew H. Clark, an avid jogger, who has competed in both Runs for the Young.

The first run was held last September. According to Michael Theisen, diocesan youth-ministry coordinator, the event will now be held each spring.

St. Lawrence, in addition to hosting both runs thus far, has also fared well in the "Bronze Shoe Award" department. The parish captured both bronze shoe awards May 9 — for most money raised (for the second year), as well as for best participation based on parish size. The prizes are bronzed running shoes of Bishop Clark's that are passed on to the winning parishes each year.

Run for the Young has attracted runners from a wide area. In fact, St. Mary's Church in Dansville won last

fall's Bronze Shoe for best participation.

Kevin Washer, 17, was among the Dansville contingent at the May race. He said that runners from his parish — which included his father and 10-year-old brother — didn't seem to mind the one-hour trip to Greece.

"We like being together, having fun, going up as a group, representing the parish and helping out with the young," remarked Kevin, who placed 55th.

"It was well organized, it was friendly, the facilities are great and the money goes for a good cause," added Jim May, who won the age 50-59 men's division in 18:18 and was 13th overall. May's wife, Carol, is youth-ministry coordinator at St. Mary of the Lake Church in Ontario.

Teens who didn't necessarily compete were among the biggest winners from this race: Money raised is put toward a scholarship fund to help offset the registration cost of various youth events. (See box below.)

One beneficiary of this fund was Christy Hinkley, 15, a parishioner at Holy Apostles Church in Rochester. She and another Holy Apostles youth, Tiffany Miller, used scholarship money from September's Run for the Young to attend a diocesan retreat in early May.

Without the funding, Christy said, she would have struggled to meet the cost of the retreat.

"I probably wouldn't have been able to go. We're pretty fortunate," Christy said.

**Coming next week: South Park**

## Facts

255 runners in 1998  
90 runners in 1997

\$5,500 raised in 1998  
\$3,000 raised in 1997

Funds provide:

Scholarships for diocesan retreats and national events

Diocesan Youth Convention registration cost lowered from \$100 to \$75

Junior High Youth Rally registration of \$15, same as last year

## Graduation

A Catholic Courier Special Supplement

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