

## Volunteers promote benefits of service

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

In St. Matthew's Gospel, Jesus told the parable of a landowner who went out seeking laborers for his vineyard. After garnering a number throughout the day, the landowner went out one last time in the late afternoon.

"Going out about five o'clock, he found others standing around, and said to them, 'Why do you stand here idle all day?' They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said, 'You too go into my vineyard.'"

That parable sums up Tracy McCabe's beliefs on the church and young adults who are available for service activities.

"I've always felt that there's a lot of people out there who would love to volunteer and love to help," said McCabe, a Rochester resident. "(But) not everyone's a leader. Not everyone's going to make the opportunity for themselves. But they will if you give them the invitation."

Like the landowner in Christ's parable, McCabe has sought laborers for more than two years, mostly in her role as chairwoman of the subcommittee on service for Odyssey, the diocesan-sponsored young adults network. You can contact her through Odyssey by calling 716/328-3228 or 1-800-388-7177, ext. 375.

A Blessed Sacrament Church member, McCabe has organized young adults to serve in her parish's supper program, as well as build homes for low-income residents through the organization Flower City Habitat for Humanity. She's also helped organize volunteers to resettle an immigrant family, and young adults who worked to stock shelves at Foodlink, an area anti-hunger organization.

McCabe stressed that young adults enjoy hands-on work that links them with their peers. Such opportunities can lead young adults to consider becoming more active in their own parish, she noted.

Cathy Daniels, also a parishioner, at

Blessed Sacrament, echoed many of McCabe's views on volunteering. Daniels works with McCabe to coordinate volunteers at the parish's supper program, and serves on Odyssey's publicity subcommittee as well.

"Our faith really impels us to serve other people," Daniels said. "(Volunteering) has deepened my faith and commitment to service quite a bit. The more I do, the more I feel called to do."

Natalie Razzano, a parishioner at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Greece, has participated in several Odyssey service projects. She pointed out that working at Blessed Sacrament's supper program has made her more sensitive to the plight of low-income people.

"It humbles you, especially when you see people coming in with their kids," she said. "It kind of put things in perspective to see people in that situation ... I think the whole experience humbles you and makes you appreciate what more you have."

She added that volunteering is a great social experience as well.

"I know a lot of the people in Odyssey, so it's basically just another fun thing to do," she said of service projects. "I don't really think of it as work."

For much of Glenn Cerasoletti's life, volunteering has been work — of a sort. A 1991 graduate of the University of Rochester, Cerasoletti said he has volunteered in several different capacities since high school, including the Volunteers in Service to America — VISTA — program in Wyoming and the Peace Corps in Bolivia. Currently an academic advisor at the University of Rochester, Cerasoletti has been volunteering in Odyssey service projects for almost a year, he said.

"I enjoy working with people (through volunteering) because it does remove some of the other incentives for work," he said, naming "money" as one such incen-



ive. "It's allow me to focus on working with people toward the betterment of their community. It allows me to focus on expressing compassion for people."

That's a point of view shared by Paul M. Flansburg, who volunteers three to four times a month at Monroe Community Hospital to transport patients to 11 a.m. Mass in the facility's chapel. Flansburg also worked with Odyssey to organize a party last year for hospital patients, and has participated in other Odyssey service projects. Helping patients attend Mass has amplified the Lord's presence in his own life, Flansburg said.

"It's a great opportunity ... to have the experience of daily Mass with people who have a tremendous appreciation of the mercy that Christ has," he said.

And that, in the end, is what volunteering is all about, according to McCabe. To her, service is Christianity's heart.

"You're supposed to live like Christ and do what he did," she said. "That was his occupation — giving to others. What you're doing is giving yourself and your gifts to others selflessly."

### Young Adult Events

Unless otherwise indicated, for information on these events, call Odyssey, the diocesan-sponsored young adult network, at 716/328-3228 or 1-800-388-7177, ext. 375.

**Saturday, Jan. 30:** Ice skating, Manhattan Square Park, Rochester. Meet at Blessed Sacrament Church, 534 Oxford St., at 6:45 p.m. \$2.50 skating and \$2.50 for skate rental.

**Friday, Feb. 5:** Bowling at Ladd's, 873 Merchants Road, Rochester, at 8 p.m. \$2.25 per game.

**Thursday, Feb. 11:** St. Bernard's On the Road presents Damian Zyn-da who will speak on "Images of God: The Spirituality of Young Adults" at St. Catherine of Siena Church, 26 Mendon-Ionia Road, Mendon, at 7:30 p.m. \$5. No registration needed. Info: 716/271-3657.

**Friday, Feb. 12, to Sunday, Feb. 14:** Skiing at Snow Ridge, Lyon's Falls. \$25 per night for lodging.

**Friday, Feb. 19:** Rochester Amerks hockey game at 7:35 p.m. in the Blue Cross Arena, Rochester. Discount tickets available.

Odyssey will hold a discussion series on the film "Jesus of Nazareth" on these Sundays: Feb. 21, March 7, 14, 21 and 28, from 2-4 p.m., and on Monday, March 1, from 7-9 p.m. Sunday discussions will take place at Good Shepherd School Library, 3318 E. Henrietta Road, Henrietta; the Monday session, Room 109 in Good Shepherd School.

The diocese is offering discussion groups for young adults seeking to discern where God is leading them. Groups will begin in mid-February and meet for six one-hour sessions. Info: Sister Marilyn Pray, SSJ, at 716/529-5689 or 325-5260 or Sister Deanna Gears, SSJ, on the Internet at [deagears@juno.com](mailto:deagears@juno.com).

## Volunteers who contributed

- Bommeite Mr E P Boname Ms Elynore Booth Mr William Boser M/M Joseph and Frances Bourcy Ms Joan Bouthillier Ms Anna Bowler Ms Marion Boyle Ms Margaret Brady Ms M Margaret Brady M/M Paul Brady Mr Peter Breidt M/M Herbert Bre William Buechel M/M John Burgess Ms Bernice Burnett M/M Robert Burns M/M Steve and Vicki Burns Fr Frederick Bush M/M William Butler Ms Joanna Butler Petronilla Byers M/M Dennis Byrne Ms Rita Cahill Ms Joanne Callan Ms Mary Lee Court #416 Catholic Daughters of the Americas Mrs Jean Cavaleri M/M Patrick Cavanagh Ms Carol Cerasoli Mrs Albertine Chamberg M/M Richard and Katherine Chapman Mr Andrew Cherre Ms Doris Christa Mr & Mrs Bob & Kara Cilano M/M M/M Robert Coleman Miss Jane Colligan Mrs Ann Colvin Mrs Mano Compare Mr Richard Concordia Ms Mary-Elizabeth Conlon Ms Elizabeth Connaughton Ms Doris Connelly M/M John Connelly M/M Walter and Maryanne Connolly Ms Marjory Coyne CQC Prosthodontics, Inc M/M Durwood Crane Mr Thomas Crawford Mr Thomas Crawford Ms Ann Marie 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