



Crucifix stirs beholders

By Lee Strong
Associate editor

BROCKPORT — A unique, life-size crucifix now fills a formerly blank spot in Brockport's Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, thanks to a memorial donation and a physician's year of service in American Samoa.

The carved wooden crucifix hangs at the back of the sanctuary behind the altar. The crucifix was created by American Samoan artist Sven Orquist out of native woods of teak for the body and ifelele for the cross.

"It just touches people," acknowledged Dr. James Goetz, who played a key role in bringing the crucifix to the parish.

Goetz, a pediatrician who is medical di-

rector at the Oak Orchard Community Health Center, took a year off (1995-96) to serve at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Tropical Medical Center in American Samoa. At the newly built cathedral there, he noticed the wood carvings and inquired about the artist. He contacted Orquist, had him do a piece for him, and got to know him.

Back in Brockport, meanwhile, the parish was trying to decide what to do with a blank space behind the altar. At one time, there had been a mosaic-style painting in the spot, explained Pastoral Associate Irene Goodwin, but it was painted over during a renovation of the church many years ago.

The parish has used the spot to hang banners and a processional cross, but a bet-

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RUN FOR
THE HILLS!
RUN FOR
THE HILLS!
COMPUTERS
ARE ABOUT
TO CRASH
WORLDWIDE
BECAUSE
OF THE
Y2K BUG!!



But before you leave the city, make sure you have plenty of bottled water, canned goods, gold and a working weapon.

Then again, maybe nothing will happen. And after nothing happens on Jan. 1, 2000, you'll be able to laugh at all the modern-day Jonahs who predicted society would self-destruct for failure to repent of our computer-dependence on time.

Depending on who you talk to, Jan. 1, 2000, could be the

worst day in modern history or the greatest historical scare for naught. Or maybe somewhere in between.

Blind date

Unless you've been living in a cave the past year, you've probably at least heard of the Y2K (Year 2000) problem. It boils down to this: In an effort to save computer code space, the majority of the world's computer operating systems were written to read years as two-, not

four-digit numerals. In other words, 1999 to a computer is "99." Hence, many computers understand "00" to mean 1900.

Despite massive efforts at revising computer code to fix the problem, numerous sources insist that for a variety of reasons computers will crash on Jan. 1, 2000, disrupting everything in our society from the delivery of electrical power to banking, for days, possibly

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STORY BY ROB CULLIVAN