

DIOCESAN NEWS



Therapy in splashes



Mike Mergen/Photo intern

School of the Holy Childhood in Rochester dedicated its Monica Bendon Swim Center, for which \$2.2 million was raised, Oct. 21. In photo at left, pool staff members Sylvia Korn, right, and Kirsten Burmaster, left, help Chrissy Vocco into the hot tub after a swimming lesson in the center's new indoor therapeutic pool Oct. 22. Above, students join hands and to practice dunking their heads under water. The pool construction was part of Campaign 2000: Continuing the Dream for the School of the Holy Childhood. The school serves children and adults with developmental disabilities.

Teens honor youth minister through memorial liturgy

By Joe Sarnicola
Freelance writer

AUBURN — At each Mass on World Youth Sunday, Oct. 24, members of the youth group at St. Mary's Church served as ushers, lectors and eucharistic ministers. But they dedicated their 11 a.m. Mass to Josette Crane, their former youth coordinator, who died of infection resulting from complications due to an intestinal blockage on Sept. 2.

Mrs. Crane spent the last five weeks of her life in the hospital. She died at the age of 41. Mike Bishop, who worked as a volunteer helper with her and who has since stepped in to fill her position, planned the Mass with the help of the teens.

Preaching at the Mass, he said, "Josette's life exemplified the main theme of today's Gospel of Matthew: 'Love the Lord with your whole mind, your whole heart, and your whole soul.' Josette singlehandedly resurrected the youth program here at St. Mary's. Her enthusiasm and joy were contagious."

One of the major goals the late youth coordinator had set for her youth group was to raise enough money so that every teen who wanted to could go the National Catholic Youth Conference, which will be held in St. Louis, Nov. 18-21.

Daniel Flanagan, one of the teens who spoke during the Mass, said, "We set a goal to raise \$6,000, and we reached it, but not without the help of the people of St. Mary's."

He also noted Josette Crane's support, and thanked Bishop, parent volunteers and parishioners who bought raffle tickets, donated to a can and bottle drive, and supported other fundraisers. Eleven St. Mary's teens will go to St. Louis.

"Our group has become very close, we've learned to stick together," said Josh Crane, 18, Mrs. Crane's son, during the Mass. "When we return (from St. Louis), we hope to be closer than we are now."

Josh, a recent recipient of a Hands of Christ award, also said he will try "to keep

what she had going with the youth group," and he wants to be involved in church and social causes.

According to Michael Theisen, diocesan coordinator of youth ministry, \$3,500 was raised in special collections at the diocese's three Hands of Christ award ceremonies held in October, and later presented to the Crane family.

Josh's only sibling, Andrea Crane, 19, is studying psychology as a sophomore at Nazareth College, and plans to work with children.

"I thought the Mass was really nice, very beautiful," she said later.

In addition to Mrs. Crane's involvement with the youth group, she was a children's liturgy teacher, a Renew group leader, a member of the board of the Finger Lakes Child Care Council, and a certified daycare provider.

Her husband, Jeff, summarized his wife's activism with one sentence before the Mass: "If it had anything to do with children, she was there."

According to Gary LaLonde, St. Mary's Christian Formation director, Mrs. Crane was "very committed, which means she was responsible and dependable. And she was eager to learn the skills of working with youth."

Father Robert Schrader, pastor, said of her, "She did a lot to inspire, organize, and motivate the kids."

Unveiling the new banner they will be taking to St. Louis, the youth group, at the 11 a.m. Mass, demonstrated a further tribute to Mrs. Crane. In colored letters against a gray background was the new name the group has given themselves, "Josette: Jesus Opens Spirits Empowering Teens Through Experience."

The national conference's theme is "Jesus is the Gateway," inspired by the fact that St. Louis is called the "Gateway City."

Bishop said that the teens "understand that Jesus is the gateway which will lead all of us into the new millennium. There is no doubt that Josette Crane had a profound influence on this development."

Recognizing

★ Deacon William McGrath of Palmyra was ordained a transitional deacon by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger on Oct. 7 at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. Deacon McGrath, who spent this past summer at Holy Ghost Parish in Gates, is due to be ordained a diocesan priest on June 24, 2000, at Sacred Heart Cathedral. He is the son of William and Mary Kay McGrath.

★ Christine Licata, associate dean for academic affairs at the Rochester Institute of Technology, was named chairperson of the Catholic Family Center's Board of Directors. The other officers for 1999-2000 are: Patricia Lovello, Frank Interlichia, Jewelle Gayle-Jones and Sister Barbara Moore, RSM.

★ Sister Barbara Staropoli, SSJ, chairperson of the music department at Nazareth College, has been given the Elena Lucrezia Cornaro Award of the Grand Lodge of the Order of the Sons of Italy in America, which recognizes scholarship, professional achievement and community service.

★ Sister Marie Burns, DC, chairwoman of the Unity Health System, received the Trustee Leadership Award from Healthcare Trustees of New York, at the organization's annual conference in Albany Sept. 17.

★ Sister Joan of Arc Pero, SSJ, turned 100 on Aug. 19. A Rochester na-

tive, Sister Pero has spent more than 80 years in religious life, 55 of those years as a diocesan schoolteacher. She now resides at St. Joseph's Convent Infirmary in Pittsford.

★ Dr. Esther Denaro Maltese, director of undergraduate secondary education at Nazareth College, presented a paper, "The Memory of the Holocaust in the 21st Century," during the Second International Conference at the International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem, Israel, Oct. 10-14.

★ Stephen D. Natapow, president of Natapow Management Corp., has been elected chairman of the Nazareth College Board of Trustees. Natapow has been a board member since 1992.

★ Father Lawrence Gross was named Citizen of Year by the Rotarians of Honeoye Falls, Oct. 6. Father Gross is pastor at St. Paul of the Cross Church in Honeoye Falls and St. Rose Church in Lima.

★ Mary Aramini, a Rochester lawyer, was honored with the Mother Teresa Pro-Life Award by Knights of Columbus Council 178, Oct. 8 at Holy Ghost Church in Gates.

★ Father Daniel Condon received the Father William Trott Memorial Community Services Award at Catholic Charities of Livingston County's annual dinner meeting on Oct. 12. Father Condon is currently on sabbatical.

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