

## FEATURE

## A 'jubilant' event



Above, Rochester's All Saints Junior High students walk into the "audience" Feb. 11 at their rehearsal for a Feb. 16 Jubilee Prayer Service during Catholic Schools Week prayer service rehearsal. They planned to bring teachers, parents and other students up to the altar to symbolize that several voices are stronger than one.



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

Photo at left, from left, Tim Herlihy Jr., 14, Heather Bennett, 13, Nicole Wargo, 12, and Alexandria Lassiter, 12, sing at All Saints Junior High during the rehearsal. Above, teacher Donna Mooney is escorted to the altar during rehearsal for the Jubilee Prayer Service at All Saints Junior High.

## Catholic school students take jubilee theme to heart

By Mike Latona  
Staff Writer

When the Rochester Diocese recommended last fall that its schools promote Pope John Paul II's Jubilee Year 2000 proclamation, All Saints Academy didn't need to be asked twice.

Sister Karlien Bach, RSM, religion teacher at All Saints, said that the Gates junior high school traditionally adopts a yearly theme. So when the jubilee idea came up, All Saints plugged it right in.

"We've really done it the whole year," Sister Bach said.

Seventh-graders Megan Dobbertin and Timothy Herlihy Jr. noted that their homeroom has recited a jubilee prayer each morning during the school year.

"We made our own posters and hung them," added Megan, 12, of the colorful jubilee art lining the All Saints hallway. Megan is a parishioner at St. Pius X Church in Chili.

And Timothy observed that a banner hanging in St. Theodore's Church — which is attached to All Saints — proclaims the same jubilee message as his own parish.

"Open Wide the Doors to Christ" is the theme here and at (Rochester's) St. Andrew's," said Timothy, 14.

Each All Saints homeroom has its own banner proclaiming jubilee pledges of forgiveness, thanksgiving, nonviolence, justice, peacemaking and sharing. According to Sister Bach, as part of a Jubilee Year 2000 pep rally on Jan. 3, students in each homeroom took turns blowing bubbles

when their jubilee theme was announced.

Another jubilee event at All Saints was a student-parent day scheduled for Feb. 16. It was to feature a morning prayer service, musical presentation and reception.

In addition, All Saints hopes to collect \$2,000 (as in Year 2000) in pennies for children in migrant-worker communities. Most of the money will be collected during Lent, and a check will be mailed out April 24 — the day after Easter.

All Saints is one of many schools following the jubilee theme that Timothy Dwyer, diocesan superintendent of schools, wrote of in a letter to parents last September:

"During the school year we will begin the celebration of the Year of Jubilee. The year commemorates the roughly 2000 years since the birth of Christ. In the Biblical tradition it is a year of 'Sabbath' and sabbath values: rest, family time, forgiveness (of sin and debt) and returning to the Father."

Indeed, values are a big part of the jubilee doings at St. Rita's School in Webster, where each class has been assigned a jubilee virtue.

"They were assigned according to age level," noted Sister Katherine Ann Rappi, RSM, principal of St. Rita's School. For instance, kindergartners were given the

words "Love" and "Pray," whereas sixth-graders focused on "Discipleship" and "Justice."

Sister Rappi added that in early January, the school's main door was decorated to commemorate the Jubilee. In the same manner, the door at Rochester's St. Ambrose School is garnered with jubilee art. To kick off Catholic Schools Week, St. Ambrose held a Feb. 14 prayer service that ended with Father Michael Schramel, pastor of St. Ambrose Church, blessing the door.

"We'll probably leave it that way for the remainder of the year, if we can keep it in good condition," said Rebecca Maloney, St. Ambrose School principal. She also noted that students have erected various jubilee messages on school windows for passers-by to observe.

Maloney also said that Jim Fennessy, a seminarian who is serving at St. Ambrose Church, recently gave a lecture to students explaining the pope's desire to accentuate jubilee themes throughout the year.

Sister Bach, of All Saints Academy, said that she, too, strives to convey the deeper meaning of the Jubilee Year 2000 to students.

"They're going to remember either the Y2K or the Jubilee. It's our responsibility to have them remember the Jubilee," Sister Bach remarked.

## Jubilee Pledge for Children

As a disciple of Jesus, I promise to:

- Learn more about living as a follower of Jesus.
- Live as Jesus wants me to, at home in school and at play.
- Be a peacemaker at all times.
- Give my time to those who need it.
- Reach out to people who are different from me.
- Respect life in people, plants and animals, and take care of the earth.
- Encourage others to work for peace and justice.
- Pray for justice and peace in our world.

## COLLABORATIVE SPIRITUAL CELEBRATIONS FOR LENT 2000 IN THE GATES-CHILI AREA

**ST. HELEN'S CHURCH**, 310 Hinchey Road  
March 5-6, 7:00 p.m. Father Virgil Funk: "The Eucharistic Prayer"  
March 7, 7:00 p.m. Closing Mass  
April 7-10, 7:00 p.m. Sister Betsy MacKinnon, D. C.: "Reconciliation"

**ST. PIUS TENTH CHURCH**, 3032 Chili Avenue  
March 11-15 Father David Reid: "Open Wide the Doors to Christ"  
Fr. Reid will preach at all of the weekend Masses, 8:30 a.m., weekday Masses and 7:30 p.m. each evening.

**HOLY GHOST CHURCH**, 220 Coldwater Road  
March 26-28, 7:15 p.m. Kathleen Chesto: "Do I Have to Forgive Everybody?"  
Kathleen will also preach at all of the weekend Masses.

**ST. THEODORE'S CHURCH**, 168 Spencerport Road  
March 29, 7:30 p.m. Jubilee Evening Prayer with Bishop Matthew Clark  
April 2-6, 7:00-8:15 p.m. Paulist Father Ed Nowak and Sister Bridget Flad  
"Jubilee Year Week of Renewal"

**ST. JUDE'S CHURCH**, 4100 Lyell Road  
March 30, April 6 & 13, 7:00-8:30 p.m. David Higbee: "Our Journey in the Shadow of the Cross"

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