

FEATURE

Labors of love win pair admiration, CFC award

By Kathleen Schwar
Assistant Editor

Frank and Mary Lou Stotz have been doing what they normally do these retirement years — sharing their interests and talents with everything from Catholic Family Center's Refugee Committee to St. Ann's Home.

They just didn't expect recognition. But the couple received the 2000 CFC Award at CFC's annual St. Patrick's Day Charity Gala March 10.

"I could look out over the audience and pick 50 people, if not 50 couples, who have done it better, harder stuff than we've done, and should be the ones getting the award," Mary Lou imagined before the event. "We'll accept it in their honor, I guess."

"For the life of me, I don't understand why we are getting it," Frank Stotz agreed. "We just sort of work in the vineyards. What it means to us, is that it is an extraordinary compliment of the life we have enjoyed in Rochester and the people we've gotten to know and become very fond of."

The gala was the biggest yet, with more than 500 people attending and close to \$90,000 contributed. Proceeds were earmarked for CFC's 58 programs and services. The Stotzes also asked that the fundraiser particularly benefit the Pregnancy and Adoption Program, a cause close to their hearts.

"All of our boys are adopted," Mary Lou explained. The CFC program tries to

match children with adoptive parents and then works with adoptive families as they adjust. It also provides support for women during their pregnancies, until they decide whether to keep their babies or give them up for adoption.

The Stotzes, who will celebrate their 44th wedding anniversary Sept. 8, raised four sons.

"I always felt the answer to some of the questions you have about abortion is adoption," said Mary Lou, past president of Birthright of Rochester. She added that she'd like to see more children who need homes be placed in adoptive homes.

Mary Lou also has served three years on the CFC board and serves on the agency's Refugee Committee, its planning and evaluation committee, and the board of St. Bernard's Institute.

Frank, a retired partner in Price Waterhouse and former chief financial officer for Bausch & Lomb, is on the board of Agrilink Foods, St. Ann's Home and its finance committee. He also is treasurer of the Rochester AAA club, and serves on a committee to help ensure the future of the WIN (Wegman Inner City Voucher Program) schools.

"We got to know them in 1995," said Carolyn Portanova, CFC president and CEO. The couple was recommended to be honorary chairs for the 1996 gala, which honored Wayne LeChase. Since then, the couple has provided valuable advice and support, she said.

"These are truly people that are role models for all of us — their love for each



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

Mary Lou Stotz, second from left, and Frank Stotz, fourth from left, pray with other parishioners before Mass on March 19 at the Church of the Transfiguration in Pittsford.

other, their love for their family, their love for their church, and for the community," Portanova said. "The Catholic Family Center is truly blessed to have them involved with us and the people we serve."

The Stotzes grew up in the Chicago area and lived for 15 years in Boston before Frank was transferred to Rochester in 1981. They helped found Church of the Transfiguration in Pittsford in 1983. Frank has been chairman of its finance committee since then, and Mary Lou has coordinated worship and prayer ministries since the church's founding.

Such work has been "more fun than work," Frank commented.



Mary Lou Stotz talks with a lector before Mass on March 19 at Church of the Transfiguration.

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The National Institute on Aging lists these tips for healthy living

1. Eat balanced diet; lots of fruit and vegetables
2. Exercise regularly; check with doctor first
3. Go for regular health check-up
4. Do not smoke; never too late to quit
5. Practice safety habits; wear seat belt in car
6. Stay active; in work, family, play, community
7. Avoid overexposure to sun and cold
8. Drink in moderation; never drink and drive
9. Keep personal and financial records in order
10. Keep positive attitude toward life



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Courier seeking info for Milestones issue

The Catholic Courier plans to honor couples who are celebrating "Milestone" anniversaries in 1999.

Couples who marked or will mark 25, 50, 75, 80, 85 or more years of marriage in 1999 will be listed in the special Milestones/Vocations issue April 27.

Please send the following information:

- Full names of husband and wife
- Date of wedding
- Church and city where married
- Also include a telephone number for any necessary verification

Deadline for submission is April 7.

Send all information to: Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester NY 14623.

The Milestones/Vocations issue also celebrates vocations of priests and men and women religious.



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