

PARENTING



Mike Mergen/Photo Intern

The Osgood family at Holy Ghost Church in Gates. From left, Louis, Keith, Renee, Laura, Hannah and Lori.

Osgood family shares its talents

By Kathleen Schwar
Assistant Editor

GATES — There are many reasons the children of Louis and Lori Osgood love them and consider them good parents.

To Hannah, 6, it's hearing her parents say, "I love you."

To Keith, 10, it's getting time for himself to be on the computer or to read.

To Renee, 14, it's her father catching her rebounds and giving her basketball tips.

To Laura, 15, it's her mother's musical influence, giving her opportunities to explore her own musical talents. It's also her parents' way of not talking down to her.

Like most families, meanwhile, the Osgoods juggle commitments, trying to find time for each other. They don't always succeed.

But sharing musical talents, especially with their Holy Ghost Parish family and the wider church, has helped them bond through the years.

Lori is coordinator of liturgy and director of music for Holy Ghost. She has a master's degree in music education from Eastman School of Music and is completing a certificate of designated ministry through St. Bernard's Institute. Lou, an electrical engineer at Eastman Kodak Co., plays the trombone. Besides playing in church, where he also fills in for missing handbell choir members, he also performs in the Roberts Wesleyan Community Orchestra. Lori plays French horn in the orchestra, and Laura, the harp, both also sing.

Hannah loves to sing, too, and is training for the parish youth choir. Renee also sings and has shared her piano talents at the church. Keith is in the parish youth choir, and plays trombone in the school band and diocesan youth orchestra.

"The family is wonderfully talented, all of them," said Father Alexander Bradshaw, pastor. "They're a beautiful model of a talented family that shares their talent with the life of the community. We are truly blessed."

Non-parishioners have been able to hear Lori and Laura cantor together, for example, at the Rite of Election March 19 at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

Lori tends to work in the evening, because that's when her music volunteers can practice. Meanwhile, Lou tries to make Renee's basketball games and keeps watch over the family. Renee plays center on a regional team in the AAU League.

Then there are summer soccer meets for Keith and the oldest daughters through the Spencerport Recreation League, and Friday swim lessons for Hannah. Among other commitments have been school-play rehearsals and performances for the oldest three. Mom also managed the sound board at Keith's school play.

And that's not all, of course. In addition, the Osgoods also juggle Scout troop meetings; and Lou is a parent volunteer for Keith's Boy Scout troop meetings.

All four children attend Catholic schools — Laura, at Aquinas Institute; Renee, All Saints Junior High; and Keith and Hannah, St. Pius Tenth. They have no lack of extracurricular activities.

Reflecting on her and her husband's parenting skills, Lori remarked, "There's no magic potion to being a good parent. The best thing I can say is Lou and I are a team, and we complement each other. Louis is one who can sit down and have extended conversations. He'll talk with them for a half-hour about why the sky is blue, and go into every scientific reason. It's something that shows you how concerned he is and wants to give to them."

"I don't have that kind of patience," she said. Turning to Laura, she added, "I don't know what I give you guys other than lots of miles in the car."

Yet, "sometimes when I'm driving down the road, I think, 'These are the best days of my life,'" she added later.

The Osgoods have seen worse days. Five years ago, Keith experienced sudden-deafness syndrome in one ear. Doctor after doctor attempted to find a reason for it

and to assure the family a tumor was not involved. The situation exasperated Lou and Lori's relationship. Lori quit her job as a public school music teacher.

Then she noticed a church bulletin article about Retrouvaille, a Catholic program designed, in part, to improve marriages. She and Lou attended a weekend session and follow-up meetings with couples.

"It really saved us, it saved our lives," Lori said. "When you are a happy, strong couple, we together can attack the issues of parenting."

And people notice. A parishioner recently sent a note to Lori, thanking her for her family's involvement in the parish. She didn't miss a thing, even how Lou places vines across the front of the church every Easter.

"She noticed everybody in my family," Lori said. "It was so beautiful, I went up to her, and said, 'Thank you so much for noticing how much they support me.'"

She is keeping the note, she said. "I'm going to set it aside for days when you need a little encouragement."

Events

● **SAT, MAY 20** — Child safety awareness day: Honda and Little League Baseball, sponsors; John Holtz Honda, 3955 W. Henrietta Rd., Henrietta; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; 716/394-0880.

● **MAY 20, 21** — Family weekend: "All About Me!"; kids' self-esteem; Strong Museum, One Manhattan Sq., Rochester; Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m.; 716/263-2702.

● **MAY 20, 21** — Lilac Festival: May 20: kids' storybook parade; registration 10 a.m.; parade 11 a.m.; May 21: Camp Good Days 1K race, 1 p.m.; kids' party in Big Tops Tent; storytelling, face painting, sand art, entertainment; South and Highland Avenues, Rochester.

● **SUN, MAY 21** — Exhibit: Rochester Subway 'Casey Jones' track car; National Railway Historical Society, 6393 E. River Rd., Rush; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; adults \$5, seniors \$4, students (5-15) \$3; includes scenic rail car ride between museums; 716/533-1431.

● **SUN, MAY 21** — Performance: "Leap for Life"; sponsored by Sojourner House with Garth Fagan Dance; performance by Sojourner House children; School of the Arts, 45 Prince St., Rochester; 2 p.m.; ticket information: 716/436-7100.

● **SAT, MAY 27** — Children's theater: "The Paper Bag Princess"; Nazareth College Arts Center, 4245 East Ave., Rochester; 2 p.m.; \$8; 716/389-2170.

● **MAY 27-JULY 1** — Classes: "Garden Sprout"; ages 6-10; fun gardening, ecology, historic topics; Children's Garden, Sonnenberg Gardens, Canandaigua; Saturdays; for information call 716/394-4922.

● **JUNE 1, 14** — Family programs: June 1: "If You're Healthy and You Know It"; aerobics, games, songs, activities; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; June 14: "Flag Day"; patriotic fun for young children; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Strong Museum, One Manhattan Sq., Rochester; adult \$6, senior/student \$5, child (3-17) \$4; 716/263-2702.

● **THRU JULY 15** — Applications accepted: Ten Star All Star Basketball Camp at Roberts Wesleyan College, 2301 Westside Dr., N. Chili; for application call 704/372-8610.

● **Registration** — Girl Scout summer camp: for girls completing K-11; day, theme, or resident camps; free brochure; call 716/292-5160.

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