

# DIOCESAN NEWS

## AQ boys, girls sweep to state titles

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

Aquinas Institute's soccer program gained immense respect when the boys' and girls' teams each won Section 5 Class B championships earlier this fall.

As it turned out, that was just the beginning.

The AQ girls won the state crown on Nov. 18 after losing in the title game each of the previous three years. The Little Irish nipped Oneonta, 1-0, in the Class B final at Webster High School. AQ ended its phenomenal season with a 22-2-1 record.

Not to be outdone, the Aquinas boys won their own state Class B title on Nov. 19 with a 3-1 triumph over Syracuse's Christian Brothers Academy at Liverpool High School. AQ ended up with a 20-2-3 record.

This marks the first time in state soccer history that both a boys' and a girls' team have won state titles in the same season.

Incredibly, there was yet another state soccer finalist from a Catholic school in Monroe County. Bishop Kearney's boys made it all the way to the Class C final before losing 1-0 to Maple Hill (Albany) on Nov. 19 at Liverpool. The Kings' final record was 22-3-0.

### AQ girls 1, Oneonta 0

The state title game's only goal came halfway into the first half, on a perfectly executed corner-kick play. Senior Sarah Elnicky lofted the ball high toward the Oneonta goal, and senior Lauren Mort headed it into the net.

According to Mort, the goal was a result of hard work throughout the season.

"We've practiced corner kicks ever day," she said. "(Elnicky) just placed the ball perfectly and all I had to do was tip it in."

Mort said she's looking forward to watching the play many times over: "My parents taped it on every news station they could. I've got so much footage."

Freshman goalie Allison Sharpe gained her 19th shutout with the win.



John Powell/Photo Intern

Kristin Lawson, No. 21, celebrates with her Aquinas soccer teammates after they defeated Oneonta High School in the girls' state Class B championship on Nov. 18 at Webster High School.

AQ had reached the final with a 5-0 victory over Burnt Hills on Nov. 17.

### AQ boys 3, CBA 1

Goals by senior Tyler Ferrara, junior Ryan Ercoli and senior Eric Lauricella, along with some key saves by junior goalie Bobby Marsala, gave AQ the state crown.

"It was our goal from the beginning to win sectionals and states," Marsala remarked. "We're all juniors and seniors and have been working together for three or four years."

The Irish had earned their trip to the final with 1-0 win over Manhasset on Nov. 18 as Lauricella netted a first-half goal.

### Maple Hill 1, Kearney 0

Bishop Kearney's hopes for a state title were dashed in the state final, with Maple Hill's Dan Colvin scoring the game's only goal.

The Kings, who won their first Section 5 title in school history this year, had reached the title game with a 3-1 win over North Salem on Nov. 18.

## Bishop notes links between care of mind, soul

By Rob Cullivan  
Staff writer

ROCHESTER — Mental health professionals who care for the mind can benefit from those who care for the soul — clergy and pastoral care workers — and vice versa, according to Bishop Matthew H. Clark.

"If a patient for whom religion is an important part of life expresses mental anguish in religious terms, or if we can provide a way of connecting that anguish in ways that let God's purposes be sources of healing and consolation, it seems to me that pastoral agents and the spiritual perspective they offer can indeed be part of the healing process," he said.

Bishop Clark made his remarks Nov. 3 as part of a conference on the treatment of mental illness. The Nov. 2-3 conference featured actress Patty Duke, a consultant to the Psychiatric Institute of America. Duke wrote the 1992 book *A Brilliant Madness - Living With Manic-Depressive Illness*, a chronicle of her struggles with mental illness.

The conference at the Rochester Riverside Convention Center drew 275 mental health professionals, mental health care consumers and family members of consumers from around the country. It was sponsored by Strong Ties Community Support Program of the University of Rochester Medical Center Department of Psychiatry.

Bishop Clark's talk was titled "A Pastoral Perspective: Spirituality and Mental Illness." In it, he addressed how sensitivity to a patient's faith perspective can widen the possibilities for healing and broaden the circle of care a person with mental illness experiences from his family and doctors to include the pastoral caregivers in his faith

community. Such care comes naturally to churches and congregations, he noted, because they are often rooted in sacred texts that contain stories of suffering.

"I think it is no coincidence that most of the foundational sources of the world's religions contain passages that suggest their authors were undergoing experiences very similar to those shared by people living today who suffer from mental disease," Bishop Clark said. "These sorts of passages reflect questions about a person's relationship with God that arise for many of us at times, but that certainly arise for people with this form of affliction."

For example, the bishop said, in the 13th Psalm, the writer asks God: "How long must I bear pain in my soul? And I have sorrow in my heart all day long?" This passage, like others in Scripture, "reflect the very common human experience of abandonment, loneliness and anxiety..." he said.

Scripture passages such as this assume that every human being exists in relation to God, the bishop said, including those who have mental illness. "From this perspective, then, any attempt to reflect on the sufferer's experiences without considering the divine will be incomplete."

Because people with mental illness suffer from limitations that can impede their lives significantly, spiritual traditions offer them a hope that God or a "higher power" can still infuse their lives with meaning, the bishop noted.

"This idea that there is a purpose broader than the one we can discern on our own — the sense that even in the state of extreme limitation that mental illness imposes, people and their suffering can still be part of a larger scheme of meaning and purpose — is an important notion and can have heal-

ing effects," he said.

Reflecting on the meaning of the Catholic Church's sacrament of the sick offers insights from which even non-Catholics can benefit, he noted. That's because the sacrament is a concrete illustration of what all healing entails.

"(The sacrament) uses physical realities — the anointing with oil, the meeting of two human beings, the conversation between them — both to signify and effect healing," he said, adding that "the healing that takes place is both physical and spiritual at the same time."

"(We) misunderstand human healing to the extent that we don't appreciate the interdependence and union of our spirits and bodies," he said. "If spiritual care can facilitate physical healing, then we need to let it happen. If spiritual care agents can assist as part of the healing intervention, then that needs to happen."

Mental illness challenges our notions that problems can be "fixed" because those with such illnesses often must grapple with them for years, the bishop said. He added that the families of the mentally ill often need pastoral care support as well as mental health care and institutional support to cope with the impact mental illness can have on the sufferer's family.

In conclusion, the bishop called for continuing dialogue between mental health professionals and pastoral care workers. Both groups of caregivers need each other, he stressed.

"Spirituality is often part of the lives of those who suffer mental illness," Bishop Clark said. "... If we can find ways to let that fact serve the purposes of healing in the face of such tremendous suffering, we need to let that happen."

## Cornerstone is foundation for celebration

When Father John Gagnier arrived as pastor at St. Dominic's Parish in Shortsville last June, he noticed that the cornerstone was dated 1900.

Soon he had made plans for a celebration: a parish dinner, Mass with Bishop Matthew H. Clark invited to celebrate, and a new ambry to bless, all on Nov. 3. Father William Cosgrove, who retired last summer after leading the parish for 17 years, returned to concelebrate.

The ambry, a cupboard that holds the holy oils, was made by parishioner Anthony Muscolino.

"The parish council kept it a secret until the appearance of it," Father Gagnier said. He and Bishop Clark unveiled the ambry at the Mass. It rests at about shoulder height on a wall near the altar. Not only is the ambry itself quite visible, but the oils inside can be seen through the glass on three sides.

And until Holy Week, when new oils are received, it will hold the old stainless steel vessels and newer but empty glass vessels. The ambry houses the holy chrism, oil of catechumens and oil of the sick.

The cross at the top of the ambry came from a confessional at Father Gagnier's home church, St. Andrew's in Rochester. The cross contains relics of St. Dominic and of St. Catherine Laboure, whose miraculous medal is featured on the ceiling of St. Dominic's sanctuary.

Today a congregation comprising 600 families, St. Dominic's was organized by 20 families in 1876, according to Father Gagnier. It was a mission of Clifton Springs' St. Felix Church until becoming independent in 1922. St. Felix pastor, Father Patrick Lee, built the original church on Sheldon Street in 1885, according to parish and diocesan accounts. In 1900 the new church, with a brick front, and wood and tin materials, was opened. After a fire in 1929 it was renovated and further enlarged, and completed in brick.

The parish's property was significantly expanded during Father John Woloch's pastorate, 1961-76. The parish purchased the high school on its east side and all adjoining property. Under Father Cosgrove's leadership, a sizable parish center was constructed.

— Kathleen Schwarz

## Dady Brothers Christmas Concert

December 3, 2000 • 3 pm

St Andrews Church

923 Portland Ave. • Rochester, NY 14621

Adult: Advance \$10, Door \$12, Child \$5

For more information call 467-1564

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