

DIOCESAN NEWS

Holy Ghost Parish, Gates, notes 125th anniversary

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Beginning with a small school for the children of German farming families, Holy Ghost Parish in Gates has evolved into a bustling suburban community during its 125-year history. The parish's heritage was observed with a 125th-anniversary Mass on June 10.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark celebrated the 11:30 a.m. liturgy and several priests joined him on the altar. They included Father Albert Delmonte, pastor since 2000, along with three previous pastors: Father Alexander Bradshaw (1989-2000), now the pastor of Our Mother of Sorrows in Greece; Father Gennaro Ventura (1979-89), who is retired; and Father Edward Steinkirchner (1968-79), who is also retired. Also concelebrating were Father Francis McNamara, SJ, Holy Ghost's long-time weekend assistant; and Father Robert Bourcy, pastor of St. Patrick's in Macedon, who was ordained at Holy Ghost in 1983.

The anniversary liturgy featured music from a youth and adult choir; instrumentalists; and a handbell choir. The handbell musicians also performed at a post-Mass reception held under a tent in the parish parking lot. Also after Mass, parishioners visited a display in the church hall that contained numerous photographs and other artifacts covering the parish's 125 years — including baptismal certificates from the earliest years of the parish.

Laurie Orman, the parish's Christian formation coordinator, noted that Bishop Clark and the other priests lingered for several minutes after Mass, greeting parishioners at the reception. She joked that the weather was unusually sunny, saying that Holy Ghost's outdoor social events usually attract rain.

"It was wonderful all the way around," Orman said.

Holy Ghost's roots can be traced to the tiny frame school building erected in 1865 to serve a growing population of German Catholics in the hamlet that is still known as Coldwater.

According to Lori Osgood, Holy Ghost's liturgy coordinator and music director, many of Coldwater's founding families are buried in Holy Ghost Cemetery, across the street from the church.

Ten years after the school opened, ground was broken for the first Holy

Ghost Church. This building was opened in 1875, and Holy Ghost Parish was incorporated July 3, 1876. Thirty years later, in May 1906, the present church was opened at 220 Coldwater Road, near the site of the original church.

The late 20th century has seen rapid expansion of the Gates-Chili area in western Monroe County, as evidenced by the opening in 1968 of both St. Christopher Parish in North Chili and St. Jude's in Gates. Holy Ghost, also, faced potential overcrowding and made an extensive expansion in the early 1970s, adding wings with additional seating on both sides of its altar.

Holy Ghost School closed in 1993. The building is now rented to Generations, a child-care and elder-care facility.

The parish currently has 1,350 families. Osgood noted that Holy Ghost is vibrant and attracting families of all ages.

"We've seen a record numbers of baptisms the past couple years," Osgood said. "We have a full-time youth ministry position, and our family programs and faith formation programs are just booming."

Orman said Holy Ghost's attention to age diversity was evident in the liturgical roles that parishioners assumed at the June 10 celebration.

"We wanted to make sure we had all age groups involved," Orman said. "The liturgy really showed what the parish is all about. We had people from the age of 3, up to senior citizens."



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer
Kristin Jermyn, 4, laughs at "Mr. Beau" the clown (Pat Donohue), at the 125th anniversary celebration of Holy Ghost Parish in Gates June 10.

Elmira junior wins two state track titles

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Molly Huddle, a junior at Notre Dame High School in Elmira, turned in dominating performances while recently capturing two state track-and-field championships.

Huddle won the 3,000-meter run June 8, and the 1,500-meter run the following day at the state Class C-D championships in Uniondale, Long Island. Huddle set a Section 4 record with her 3,000-meter win, posting a time of 9 minutes, 43.4 seconds. She then turned in a winning time of 4:34.21 in capturing the 1,500 meters.

Class C-D is the lowest classification based on school enrollment. However, Huddle's times in both races were better than the state Class A and B champions as well (9:49.69 and 10:01.16 in the 3,000 meters and 4:35.97 and 4:35.67 in the 1,500 meters.)

Also at the state meet, several male athletes from Rochester's Aquinas Institute turned in solid performances. Arel Gor-

don ran a time of 22.44 seconds in the 200 meters, placing third; Phil Zakielaz threw the shot put 51 feet, 1 inch to place fifth; and the 3,200 relay of David Hryniak, Joe Wetzel, Jason O'Mara and Mike Mellas combined for a time of 8:20.39 to end in 10th place.

Team sports were not quite as fortunate at the state level last weekend, as McQuaid Jesuit baseball and Notre Dame softball fell just short of state championships.

McQuaid, of Rochester, reached the state Class A final before falling to Section 4's Union-Endicott, 9-7, in the title game played June 9 in Utica. It was the Knights' first defeat all year after 28 consecutive victories. McQuaid's streak included a Section 5 Class A championship, as well as rankings of No. 1 in the state and No. 21 in the country heading into last weekend.

The championship-game loss came in McQuaid's second game of the day. The Knights had gained entrance into the evening final by winning 6-3 over Utica Proctor of Section 3. But the Knights committed five errors against Union-Endicott,

including three miscues in the fourth inning that turned a 4-4 deadlock into a 7-4 deficit. The Knights rallied to within 7-6 but never caught up.

Meanwhile, Elmira Notre Dame softball, representing Section 4, was stopped in the state Class C semifinal round. The Crusaders lost 2-0 to Mechanicville of Section 2 in a June 9 game that took place in Uniondale.

As was the case with McQuaid, Notre Dame was stopped short in its effort to preserve a season-long unbeaten streak and No. 1 state ranking. The Crusaders never got on the board against Mechanicville, which went on to capture its second straight state crown later that day. The Red Raiders edged ND, 9-8 in 12 innings, in the state championship contest last year.

Notre Dame had advanced to the state final four with a 2-1 victory over Section 3's Canastota — which had also been previously unbeaten — in a quarterfinal game played June 5 in Binghamton. The Crusaders finish their season with a 27-1 record.

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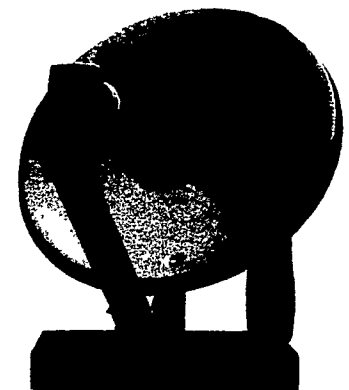
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