

SENIOR LIFESTYLES

Couple uses postcards, peekaboos to practice faith

By Rob Cullivan
Staff writer

FAIRPORT — Edward F. Lada, 71, and his wife of 47 years, Dorothea H. Lada, 68, apparently preferred talking to the press standing up rather than sitting down.

Of course, they didn't have much choice, as they were both holding babies in their arms, rocking them ever so slightly.

No, the Ladas are not miracle parents in their sunset years. They are volunteers with Daystar, a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester that is located in a Fairport home. Since 1988, Daystar has provided round-the-clock care for medically frail infants who have temporarily resided there.

The Ladas, who have participated in Catholic-led demonstrations against abortion clinics since the 1980s, began volunteering at Daystar because they wanted to do more for the pro-life movement than simply protest, Edward said. By coming in from time to time to babysit, the Ladas enable Daystar's staff of three sisters to run errands and do chores.



Andrea Dixon/Staff photographer

"Dot" Lada, a parishioner of St. Louis in Pittsford, holds a 1-month-old baby girl at Daystar Oct. 10.

"In the Gospel it says besides having faith you have to have good works," Edward said about the couple's volunteer efforts.

Sister Myra Monaghan is one of the three sisters who staff Daystar, along with Sister Anne Maura Morris, and Sister Anne Nothnagle, a registered nurse. Sister Monaghan had high praise for the Ladas.

"They are extremely attentive and ingenious with the care of the babies," she said. "I think Ed and Dorothea have adapted to each baby's needs in a special way."

The couple strongly value their faith, attending Mass and praying the rosary daily. Parishioners at St. Louis Church, Pittsford, the Ladas have four grown children and eight grandchildren. They moved to the Rochester area from New York City 27 years ago, and are both retired. Edward worked as a treasurer and manager for a bank here, and Dorothea has worked as a teacher's aide and as a day-care employee.

Dorothea is a past member of the St. Louis parish council, and is still active in Magnificat, a group of Catholic

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Kids' Answers from page 7
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