



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

Teeing off for charity

McQuaid Jesuit High School student Matt Schwalm tees off June 26 at Greystone golf course in Walworth during the Catholic Schools Scholarship Golf Classic.

BK classes plan musical reunion

A reunion will be held July 5-6 for students who attended Irondequoit's Bishop Kearney High School during the tenure of Raymond Shahin, former music director.

The Raymond Shahin Era Band and Musical Reunion Weekend will include an all-day event at Artisan Works, 565 Blossom Road, Rochester, followed by a golf tournament.

Tom Erb, chair of the reunion committee, said that students and/or their parents from the graduating classes of 1967 through 1983 are invited to attend.

"We're going to celebrate everyone involved in one of the 17 consecutive years of music, theatre

and community spirit," Erb said. He estimates that the reunion committee has attempted to contact more than 2,000 former students, parents and supporters of the marching band, pit band, color guard, twirlers, stage crew or musical performers.

"It was like being part of a great team or a dynasty, something that transcended any individual or specific year," recalled Erb, a former band member.

The reunion committee has created a Web site at www.shahin-era.com to provide details about the July 5-6 extravaganza. Those interested in attending can purchase tickets online at \$35 each.

Catholic station debuts on radio

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

A three-year effort to bring full-time Catholic radio to the airwaves of the Monroe County area was to culminate July 1 in the establishment of WHIC 1460-AM.

Formerly Christian-format WSWG, the station was scheduled to be sold July 1 by Anthony Brandon to Holy Family Communications of Buffalo. The station's new call letters stand for Holy and Immaculate Conception.

"The stated mission of the radio station is 'to promote the truths of Jesus Christ with the teachings and traditions of the Catholic faith.' That, of course, also is our mission, and I pray this powerful communication tool will reach and uplift many with the Gospel message, 'Catholic teachings and stirring music,'" Bishop Matthew H. Clark said in a statement.

WHIC Station Manager Jack Palvino, a fixture in Rochester radio since the early 1960s, said he doesn't recall any previous local radio station with an all-Catholic format.

WHIC is a 5,000-watt station. Its signal can be picked up clearly in Monroe County and as many as 25 miles outside the county.

William Purcell, general manager of Holy Family Communications, said regular programming for WHIC is expected to take effect approximately July 8. The greatest portion of WHIC's air time will be devoted to shows produced by the Eternal World Television Network, addressing such subjects as spirituality, the pro-life movement, Catholic music, parenting and church history. In addition, EWTN offers radio rebroadcasts of Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen's renowned "Life is Worth Living" television show.

EWTN will account for 46 percent of WHIC's programming. Purcell said other national Catholic programs will make up 26 percent, with devotionals and Masses at 20 percent and locally generated programming at 8 percent. Doug Mandelaro, diocesan director of communications, said the diocese is working with the station to explore informational programming produced by the diocese.

A Catholic program of note during

WSWG's tenure had been the long-running Family Rosary for Peace with Msgr. Joseph Cirrincione, a Rochester diocesan priest who died this past December. Palvino said WHIC "will certainly make every effort" to continue airing the rosary tapes, which have been played at 6:30 p.m. nightly.

Purcell said WHIC's \$160,000 annual operating cost will be entirely donor-supported.

Holy Family is an independent, not-for-profit corporation that opened its first Catholic radio station in Buffalo in 1999. This past year Holy Family also founded stations in

Scranton, Pa., and Youngstown, Ohio. Although Purcell and Palvino said there are only about 50 all-Catholic radio stations in the United States compared to 1,500 Protestant stations, Catholic radio was practically nonexistent just a few years ago. Purcell and Palvino said the upswing is due mainly to EWTN's offering of syndicated programming since 1996.

"Catholicism is way behind the curve in the broadcasting business, and it's time to catch up," said Palvino, a parishioner of St. Mark's in Greece.

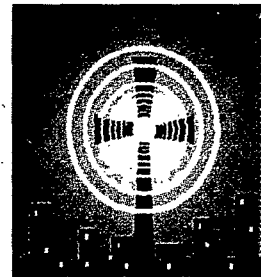
Palvino, 69, was a popular Rochester disc jockey in the 1960s and 1970s before moving into station ownership and management in the 1980s and 1990s. He said he's excited about his new venture with WHIC, pointing out radio can spread the Catholic faith into a place where people aren't accustomed to receiving it.

"Radio's primary listeners are in the car," Palvino remarked.

Purcell, 33, also has ties to the Rochester area. He formerly attended Fairport's Church of the Assumption and St. John of Rochester parishes and is a graduate of McQuaid Jesuit High School. He said Holy Family Communications' success in other markets bodes well for Catholic radio's potential in Rochester.

"We receive feedback daily of people's lives who have been changed by this programming," Purcell said.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Donations for the support of WHIC may be mailed to Holy Family Communications, P.O. Box 745, Amherst, NY, 14226.



CATHOLIC RADIO