

# Local athletes win medals

Jennifer Burke/Catholic Courier

Two of them like the challenge. One just likes to play and hone his skills. But whatever the reason, Peter Connorton, 40; Brian Dioguardi, 33; and Dave Galunke, 34, all love to play golf.

And they play for more than just pleasure. All three are seasoned competitors, having most recently participated in the Special Olympics New York 2003 Fall Games Oct. 10-11 in Seneca Falls. Galunke and Dioguardi came in second and third in their division, respectively, while Connorton earned second place in his division.

"Everybody was within two strokes of a gold medal," said the trio's coach, Tim Baird.

Connorton, Dioguardi and Galunke are employed by the Partners With Industry workshop run by Rochester's School of the Holy Childhood, a center for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Even though they have busy schedules, each finds time during the day to practice golf.

According to Baird, golf is played at three different levels within the Holy Childhood program. Participants on the first level are taught basic golf skills and are judged on those skills in competition. At the second level, each student is partnered with another golfer, and the pair take turns hitting. At the third level, students go to the golf course and play rounds by themselves. Special Olympics also uses this system.

Besides competing at the Special Olympics, Connorton, Dioguardi and Galunke have also participated in the annual School of the Holy Childhood Golf Tournament, held the second week in August. Each player is paired with community members for the tournament, which this year was held at Buttonwood Golf Course in Spencerport. Dioguardi and his partner, WOKR-13 Sports Director Mike Catalana, won the tournament with a score of 36. Over the years, Connorton, Dioguardi and Galunke have each won a Holy Childhood tournament, with Dioguardi and Connorton each winning twice.

Dioguardi said he is especially proud of golfing in the 1995 World Game Special Olympics, and Baird said all three have competed in the Special Olympics New York games for as long as golf has been a part of it.

"We (Holy Childhood) were one of the pioneers in golfing in the Special Olympics for New York state," Baird said.

Even with all their accomplishments, the men have not stopped



Karin von Voigtlander/Catholic Courier

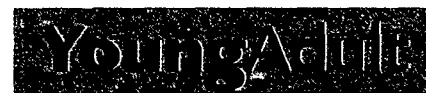
Peter Connorton (left), David Galunke and Brian Dioguardi recently won medals in golfing during the Special Olympics New York 2003 Fall Games. The three work in the Partners With Industry workshop at Rochester's School of the Holy Childhood.

setting goals for themselves. Dioguardi hopes to make it back to the World Games, and Galunke wants to improve his skills in each of the areas of golf.

"Peter wants to play the level three golf and be able to go to golf courses by himself without anybody helping him. He has the ability, but he hasn't competed in level three yet," Baird said.

When they're not golfing, each keeps busy with his job in the workshop. Galunke is putting together 401(k) booklets for Paychex, Connorton is working on a collating job and Dioguardi is putting new wheels on Wegman's bakery carts.

All three also attend Mass at Holy Childhood every Thursday, and Con-



norton, a parishioner of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Greece, said he enjoys going to church with his family and being able to share the prayers in his heart. Galunke, a parishioner of Fairport's St. John of Rochester Parish, not only goes to church with his family every week, but also plays golf with his father regularly.

"I got into it (Mass) when I came here. It's something that I wanted to keep doing," Dioguardi said, adding that he always feels happy and better inside after Mass than he did before he came.

## Events

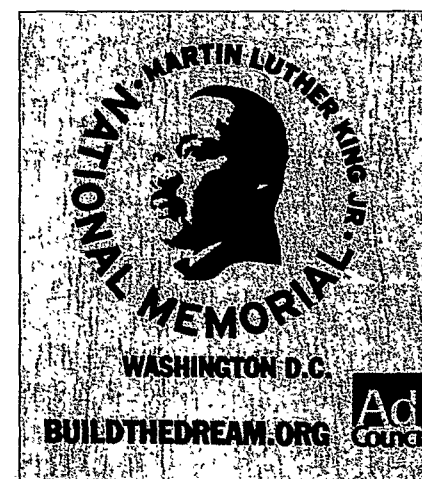
■ **OCT. 29, NOV. 5** — **Theology on Tap: young adult 20s & 30s.** Johnny's Irish Pub, 1382 Culver Rd., Rochester. Oct. 29: "Becoming a Faithful Family with the One You're Stuck With"; panel discussion. Nov. 5: "Is There a Patron Saint for Bartenders?"; Sr. Nancy Hawkins, speaker, happy hour 6:30 p.m., discussion 7:30 p.m., Shannon 585/328-3228, ext. 1375; [loughlin@dor.org](mailto:loughlin@dor.org)

■ **MON, NOV. 10** — **Registration deadline: Nov. 15 & 16; service retreat for men & women ages 18-35.** "Do you want to make a difference with your life and make a difference in the world for Justice & Peace?" Diocese of Rochester Young Adult Ministry and Sisters of St. Joseph Volunteer Corps, sponsors, Holy Family Convent, 891 Jay St., Rochester. Sat. community service experience and overnight with supper, night prayer, theological reflection & fun. Sun. Mass & brunch followed by reflection on Catholic social teachings, 9 a.m. Nov. 15 to 2 p.m. Nov. 16, \$10; 585/641-8122. Days, 585/529-5689 evenings

■ **SAT, NOV. 15** — **Odyssey movie night for Catholics ages 25-45.** movie at The Little Theatre, 240 East Ave., Rochester, followed by coffee and dessert at Spot Coffee, RSVP: Natalie 585/663-0733

■ **THU, NOV. 20** — **Odyssey dinner for Catholics ages 25-45.** Woody's 2, 2758 W. Henrietta Rd., Henrietta, 7 p.m., RSVP: Laura 585/621-5672, Roger [rscazoi@aol.com](mailto:rscazoi@aol.com)

■ **SUN, NOV. 30** — **Odyssey craft project for Catholics ages 25-45.** make an Advent wreath, place and time to be announced, \$10, RSVP: Jean 585/482-9023



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