



Mike Crup/Catholic Courier  
Matt Bukowski (left), a parishioner of Henrietta's Guardian Angels Parish, and Matt Rooney (right), a parishioner of Pittsford's St. Louis Parish, serenade Jamie Farley, a parishioner of Charlotte's Holy Cross Parish, during a Feb. 20 talent show at Rochester's Holy Family School. The show was part of the 2004 Urban Faith Fest for youths ages 12-18.

## Rochester teens flock to Faith Fest

Mike Latona/Catholic Courier

ROCHESTER — There were plenty of Mardi Gras celebrations around town Feb. 20-21, and the diocesan Urban Faith Fest was no exception. Stirring music and dancing highlighted Friday's opening-night activities, and Saturday participants received shiny, colorful necklaces in keeping with Mardi Gras tradition.

Yet an extra dimension, not commonly associated with Mardi Gras gatherings, existed at Holy Family Parish: High spirits were accompanied by strong spirituality. This appealing mix helped make the second annual festival, for youths ages 12-18, the most highly attended program in the three-year history of the diocesan Office of Urban Youth Ministry.

Holy Family Church was filled for Friday night's opening event, a multicultural Mass celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark. Music was pro-



vided by the St. Bridget's Parish Gospel Choir, with liturgical dancers from Immaculate Conception Parish also taking part. Afterward, a talent show in the Holy Family School auditorium drew nearly 200 youths and adults, according to Lynette DeJesus, diocesan coordinator of urban youth ministry. Performances included Caribbean and African dance by the Immaculate Conception dancers; singing by youth-group members of St. Andrew's Parish; a Gospel rap by Pedro Nunez of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish; and piano music by D.J. Fiorito of St. Anne Parish.

"It was so exciting, really affirming to see all the people there just supporting the kids," DeJesus said.

Many Friday-night attendees returned to Holy Family for the Saturday program. It began with an ap-



Jackie Campbell (from left), Sashanna Campbell and Carol Isaac, members of St. Bridget Church's gospel choir, perform Feb. 20 during Faith Fest's opening event, a multicultural Mass celebrated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark.