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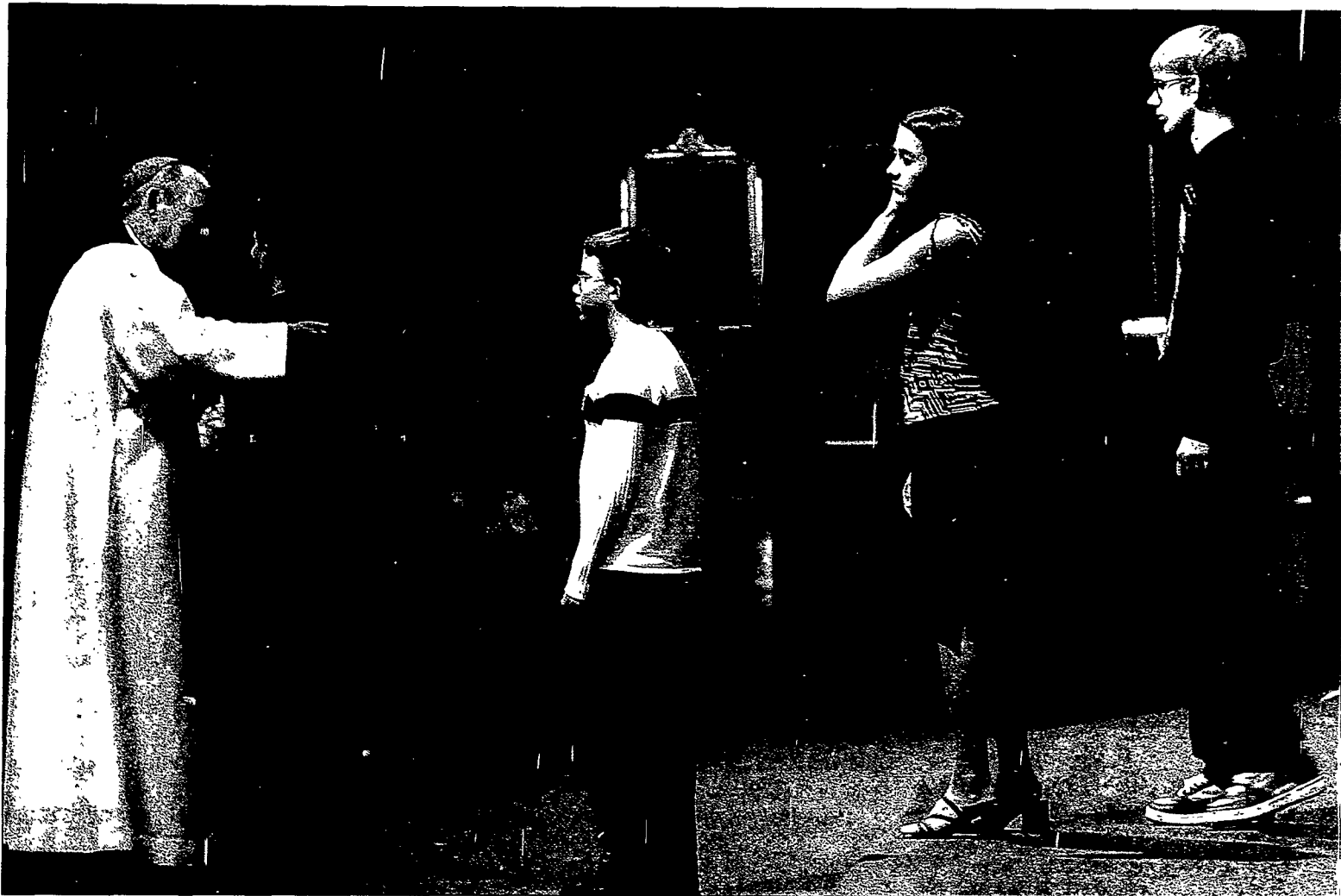
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# Faith & Family

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Twelve-year-old David Wilcox Jr. (center, from left) and his siblings, 14-year-old Amanda and 17-year-old Tim, wait to be congratulated by Bishop Matthew H. Clark Feb. 29 during a Rite of Election ceremony at Greece's Our Mother of Sorrows Church. The Wilcoxes, who attend St. Charles Borromeo Church in Greece with their parents, Joan and David Sr., will become full members of the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil.

## Committing to Catholicism

Amanda Wilcox, 14, had been a member of the bell choir at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Greece for more than two years, but still didn't feel completely comfortable at Mass. She and her brothers, David Jr., 12, and Tim, 17, had been baptized at the parish as infants, but had never made their first Communion or been confirmed, making them feel like they didn't completely belong.

"When people were going up to get Communion, we were just sitting down and didn't really know what it was," Amanda said.

By the end of 2003, the Wilcoxes had had enough of that feeling and decided to go through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults as adapted for children.

RCIA is the process through which adults join the Catholic Church, and the program has been adapted for children at many parishes throughout the Diocese of Rochester, according to Sister, of St. Joseph Karen Dietz, diocesan coordinator of sacramental catechesis. A total of 600 initiates — both children and adults — are currently in the process of joining the church, she said. Of that number, 238 are going through RCIA as adapted for children.

"It's a process of becoming a full member of the Catholic Church, which in itself is a process of learning who God is, and specifically what it means to be Catholic," Sister Dietz said.

Those going through RCIA are divided

into two groups, candidates and catechumens. David Jr., Amanda and Tim — along with 116 other children and teens throughout the Diocese of Rochester — are candidates. Candidates are individuals who either were baptized as Catholics but never received the sacraments of Communion and confirmation, or were baptized as members of other Christian denominations and now want to become Catholic. Catechumens — including 119 diocesan children and teens — have never been baptized. After completing the RCIA program, both groups of initiates receive the missing sacraments of initiation and become full members of the Catholic Church during the Easter Vigil.

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