

Glorious

Stunning mural ready for unveiling

BY TIM SMITH
STAFF WRITER
tsmith@ecce.homescomm.net

ST. FABIAN

The new mural in the atrium at St. Fabian Catholic School won't officially be unveiled until Sunday. But that wasn't stopping Sr. Mary Loretelle, OSF, from gazing in awe at the finished product.

"Jesus with the children, it's why we're here," said Loretelle, principal at the private Farmington Hills K-7 school.

What Loretelle was looking at Monday morning was a three-dimensional, ceramic mosaic mural created by Svetlana Cholvadova, a graduate of Lourdes College in Sylvania, Ohio.

Cholvadova was at St. Fabian Friday and Saturday to help coordinate the assembling of her 310-piece mural. At Lourdes, she studied 3D mosaics under the tutelage of Sr. Jane Mary, OSF, an accomplished artist who is in her mid-70s.

Under streams of bright light shooting in from the atrium roof,

the mural's centerpiece -- as it should be for a religious school -- was Jesus Christ, with a child in his arms. Standing around him are other children, of various nationalities, as well as a dog, trees, flowers and other aspects of nature.

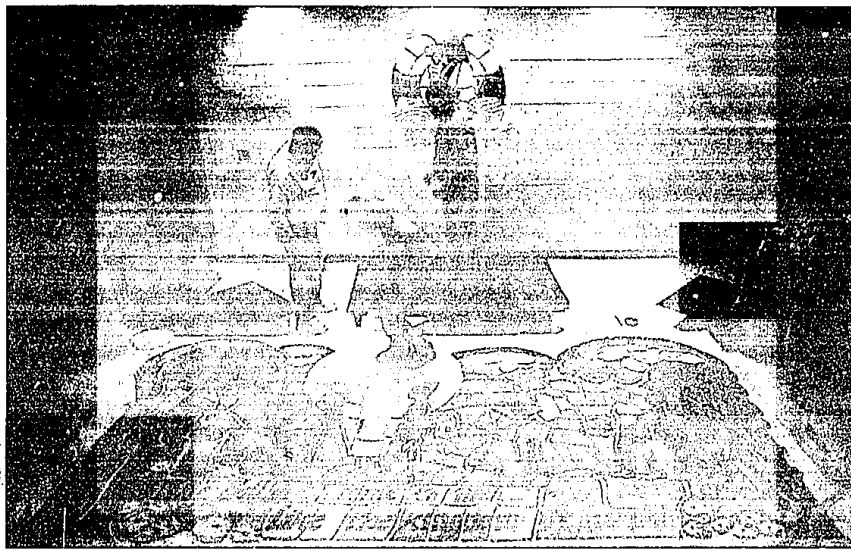
"Let the children come to me for they are like the kingdom of heaven," read the mural's inscription.

As Loretelle gazed toward the mural, a woman walked into the recently expanded and renovated school building and was immediately enthralled with Cholvadova's work.

"Isn't that precious," said the woman.

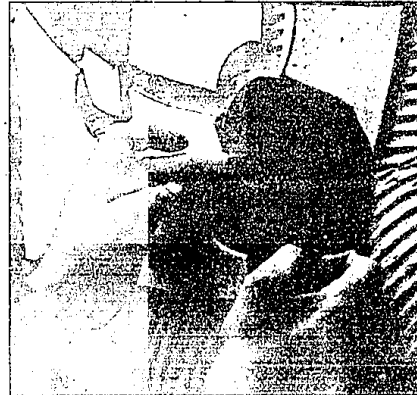
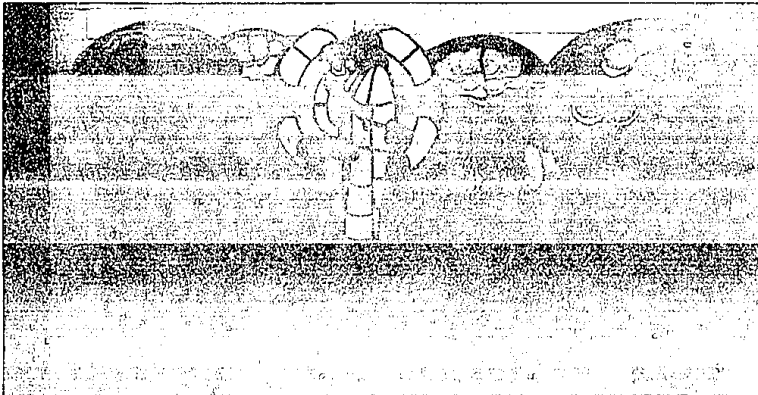
The girl depicted in the Lord's arms is Karen Nichols, the late niece of Farmington Hills residents and St. Fabian parishioners Ed and Dianne Buatti. Karen was just 9 years old when

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Work in progress: Above, St. Fabian parishioner Ed Buatti (left), mural artist Svetlana Cholvadova and assistant Hans Klinck, work on hanging the ceramic mural over the weekend. Below right, Klinck sets a tile onto the wall.

Ready for the world: By Monday morning, the 310-piece mural was in place, inside the front entrance to St. Fabian Catholic School. It will be dedicated after Sunday's 11 a.m. Mass.



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