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STAFF WRITER

Churches began planning services in honor of Pope John Paul II on Friday, to commemorate his life and contributions to the Catholic Church.

St. Heart Byzantine Catholic Church in Livonia hosted Prayers for the Pope at 4 p.m. Saturday, and will continue to do so during the 11 a.m. Mass on Sunday. The church is located at 29125 Six Mile Road.

"I have been pope for 27 years, a great part of my priestly life," said Pope John Paul II, who was formerly Cardinal of Krakow. Details of the pope's candidacy.

"I am beloved and respected, not only by the church, but by all who have had the opportunity to know him," Ivan said. "I will be remembered as a truly great example of what it means to be a Christian.

When the war in Iraq began, he said the pope pleaded on behalf of the people. "He came from humble beginnings and he never forgot it," Ivan said. In the Catholic Church, he said, the pope tended to be a ruler. That is why the motto "To serve the people of God and not to preside over them."

Fr. Ronald Kurzawa at St. Ignace Catholic Church in Livonia said he has memories of the pontiff's visit during his sabbatical in Rome, he said. The pope personally and was seen in rough pictures Friday, he said. Back to that meeting, he said. In his hand, he said "was as anything."



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Jim Payne, a dentist who resides in Livonia, delivers free, reconditioned computers to the McNamara Center in Livonia. Behind is Alan Hedler of Northville. JDS Computers is always seeking used machines to rebuild, and organizations in need of computers.

Gift of technology

Nonprofit volunteers share with those in need

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Mildred Scott, a resident of Livonia's McNamara Center, plans to get a lot of use out of the new computer lab being installed in her apartment building.

Scott uses computers, mainly for Internet and e-mail access. Though other senior citizens in her building admitted they don't know how to use these services, Scott said it won't be long before they do. "When they get a letter from their granddaughter, they'll learn real fast, I think,"

Scott said Wednesday.

Wednesday was the day when volunteers from the Livonia-based nonprofit JDS Computers came to the McNamara Center to donate three computers and a printer – as a star-

PLEASE SEE PAYNE,

PAYNE

FROM PAGE A1

for the new lab.

The senior residence was the most recent recipient of their free, reconditioned machines.

"We really appreciate the donation," said James Inglis, executive director of the Livonia Housing Commission.

The first installment will be accessible to about 140 residents, he said, all of whom are without computer access right now.

JDS Computers was founded by James Payne, Drake Davis and Scott Montgomery, a student at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Along with a dozen volunteers, they collect used computers, monitors and accessories, and completely rebuild them into updated machines. Those machines are then donated to people and organizations in need.

It all began about four years ago when Payne, a dentist who practices in Northville, bought a computer for his office.

"Every Tuesday and Thursday at 5 o'clock - you could set your watch to it - it went down," he said.

The frustration led Payne to learn all he could about computers, including how to repair them. He even served as an intern, repairing computers at Computers Plus in Lathrup Village, to gain necessary skills.

He and Davis built their first computer in 2001. Since then, the nonprofit began to grow. The business is run out of Payne's Livonia home, mostly his basement and garage.

EXACTING WORK

Payne draws comparisons between dentistry and his work with computers. In both cases, he said he's acting on a diagnosis of a problem. Both, he said, are "exacting, detailed" professions.

Since its start, JDS Computers has collected more than 4,200 machines. Out of those donations, volunteers have rebuilt and donated 1,450 computers - at no cost.

Each rebuilt computer is run through a series of tests to ensure the recipient won't have any problems with it. Hard drives are wiped clean of all previous information.

Schools, particularly those in the inner city, and churches benefit most from their work. Payne said in a school setting more students can access the machines.

"Every time I go down the basement stairs, I help 10 people," said Payne.

JDS Computers is currently focusing their efforts on improving communications with our local troops fighting overseas. The nonprofit is seeking donations of laptop computers, which may be reconditioned and sent to troops in Iraq.

"We've sent 67," said Payne,

who still receives at least two new requests each week from military personnel. "They're provided with nothing for communication. And they're leaving a wife and family behind. We've been able to help quite a few."

It hasn't been as easy to find donations of laptops, Payne said. He compared it to "asking someone to give up their child."

WORD-OF-MOUTH DONORS

Chuck Glinz, a Redford resident and volunteer for JDS Computers, said the nonprofit began first to receive computers from individuals, looking to dispose of used machines.

"Basically it's been word-of-mouth," added Davis, who lives in West Bloomfield. "Patients of his or organizations we have helped, they spread the word."

Soon enough, the city employees in Taylor, Southfield and Livonia began donating used machines. Comcast has offered the most and earned the title of JDS's "No. 1 donor."

Glinz called the work rewarding.

"We're trying to make a difference," added Payne.

Computers fit for donation include desktops with a Pentium III processor or better, laptops with a Pentium II processor or better, laser printers only, and Macintosh computers must be iMac G-4 models or better.

To learn more, see the Web site at www.JDSComputers.net-firms.com or call (734) 591-1559.