

Close-knit women create quilt for raffle

A close-knit group of women at St. Thomas Parish in Terrace Park have spent more than a year finishing an embroidered quilt that now will be raffled.

The quilters meet weekly in the guild room for close to three hours, hand-sewing with exact precision, creating a work of art that will soon grace someone's home. The proceeds will assist the youth at St. Thomas.

The quilt actually was started during the 1970s when Kay Everhart, of Mariemont, picked out the early American green, blue and raspberry-red pattern and kit at Pogue's Dept Store downtown. She embroidered parts of it, but with five children, she just didn't have the time to finish it. She stashed the project away.

In 2006, she donated it to the quilters so they could finish and raffle it to raise funds. "They really did a wonderful job at restoring it. I think it's beautiful. It's a pleasure to see it finished. I hope it brings a goodly sum for Becky (Carman of Terrace Park) and the youth group."

The embroidery takes precision sewing, she explained. "The stitches have to be exact. That's part of the charm of it when you're working the pattern."

The creative process involved in the quilt raises your awareness of things that are beautiful, and you are appreciative, Everhart explained. "When you are creating, you are making something for the pleasure of God. I get pleasure from it and if you spread the pleasure, you're enhancing other peoples' lives."

She sees the women in the group as faithful in their work for St. Thomas. Alice Sturzenberger, for example, has come faithfully to the group since 1981. Now a resident of Montgomery, she found out the quilting group was looking for more workers. "I came and liked it," she said, and came every week for decades until her husband had a stroke.

She found the group of women very supportive. "It was really helping me to think that I'm not alone, experiencing problems," she said. "All of these ladies went through things—heartaches and trouble and illnesses. It really is the friendship, being together and talking about things. I'm planning to come if possible at all, because I don't want to stop seeing my friends."

Anne Cherry of Terrace Park said they share both the good and the bad with each other. "We become closer," she said. "We laugh a lot at almost unlaughable situations."

Julie Northrop of Terrace Park agrees. "We enjoy the camaraderie. It's like a support group."

Lou Scott of Milford said the friendship she experiences is more important to her than making the quilt. "Everything I do here helps me grow spiritually," she said. She started coming three years ago when she saw the group needed some help.

Cherry added they quilt and embroider because they love to do it. They've done three kinds of quilts, including appliqué. Sturzenberger said her favorite from all her years of quilting with the group was the "flowers of the Bible" quilt. "It was beautiful," she said.

Everyone is welcome to join the fellowship, they said. Libby Rost, of Milford, added, "We usually go out for lunch afterward."

Raffle tickets at \$1/ticket or 7 for \$5 are available at 831-2052.