

## Island Catholic school teachers receive honor

### Ceremony commemorates Women's History Month

By **CHRISTINE PAGAN**  
ADVANCE STAFF WRITER

Staten Island's Catholic school teachers were honored last night during a ceremony commemorating Women's History Month sponsored by the Staten Island Federation of Catholic School Parents.

The federation honors members of the Catholic educational system each year. Last night it singled out the borough's corps of female Catholic elementary and

high school teachers for their hard work and determination in educating the Island's youth.

The auditorium of St. Peter's Boys High School in New Brighton was color-coordinated in blue and gold — that school's colors — including blue tablecloths and an array of blue and gold balloons arching over the stage.

More than 100 guests attended, including teachers, members of the federation, faculty, staff and principals from the schools.

One representative from each of the Island's elementary and high schools accepted a certificate of recognition from the federation as well as a proclamation from state Sen. John DiCarlo in honor of the teachers' ongoing commitment to improving the educational backgrounds of the borough's students.

Community School Board member Jerry Cammarata represented DiCarlo, who was in Albany and unable to attend.

School principal John Fodera welcomed the teachers and congratulated them for their work. William Galt, dean of discipline at the school, helped coordinate the annual event.

A group of seniors from St. Peter's individually saluted the

group of teachers by reciting short comments about the educational process and the teachers' effect on the students' lives.

One student's comments included a saying from the saint that said teachers are called to transform children to practice the gospel in school and at home.

After the tribute to the teachers, the seniors led the audience in a round of applause and presented yellow carnations wrapped in blue ribbons to the teachers representing each school.

The guest speaker was Sister Ann Lynn, a former public school teacher who taught foreign language for 21 years on Staten Island. She spoke to the members about her work over the past four years as a member of the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal.

She discussed her role as a missionary with her sisterhood in the South Bronx, which helps feed the hungry and homeless and teaches the gospel and spreads Christianity to underprivileged children and adults in that borough.

The special guests attending the event were the borough's parochial vicar, Monsignor Joseph Ansaldi, and Sister Kathleen Fitz Simon, superintendent of the borough's Catholic schools.