



Father Hammond does a jig for amusement of all.

The atmosphere of the seminar consists of a highly emotional fusion of Scout camp, encounter groups and catechesis. The small group discussions not only allow for tears, but in cases openly encourage crying; several seemed to take a certain amount of pride in the amount of Kleenex consumed.

The intensity of their days together builds a camaraderie among the group which appears on the last day as they process into the chapel together, to be greeted by hundreds who have made previous seminars. Smiles and hugging and hand holding add to the ceremony's significance for those who are leaving.

Father Hammond, who is also an assistant regional coordinator and is assigned to St. Michael's parish in Newark has worked as head of the seminar program for three years, since it moved to Canandaigua from Rochester.

And the kids appreciate his work. To attend the final gathering, one boy from Dansville caught a ride to Honeoye, then bicycled the 20 miles over back roads to get to the Retreat House. He rode back the same day.



Jubilation: the arms above thrown into the air accompany songs done by the whole group. Seminar session, left, takes place in store of Retreat House, and below, a girl who bursts into tears gets comforting hug from her neighbor.




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"We don't have room for any more as it is."

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