

# Youths Keep Busy in Variety of Programs

"When we plan anything we usually anticipate 75 kids," Mrs. Doreen Collins said, estimating average participation in youth group activities at St. Ambrose. One of 27 adult advisors for the program, Mrs. Collins has been involved since the youth group started two years ago.

"Our most successful project has been youth Mass, Mrs. Collins said. "The love and closeness there is really an experience." The Mass is celebrated monthly before the Saturday night coffeehouse in the basement of the rectory opens. "Once over 300 kids came," she said adding, "That was after the regional leadership weekend at Camp Stella Maris."

That leadership weekend was Reach Out, a regional event sponsored by Catholic Youth Organization as part of their Youth Development Program. Mrs. Collins explained that the development of the St. Ambrose program paralleled that of the CYO program.

Thomas Cotterill, executive director of CYO, reported that the youth development program was designed to aid existing youth programs and help start new ones. Father Donald Schwab, associate pastor of St. Ambrose, related that CYO staffer Richard Weider built on a long history of programs at St. Ambrose.

Prior to youth development many parishes had youth programs, but those programs were usually dependent on the priest for their leadership. Cotterill noted that such an arrangement had certain disadvantages. Priests leave and the program ends, or they may lack time or interest. The CYO program offers training to potential adult advisors within the parish who will lead a group and offer it continuity from year to year.

Mrs. Collins, whose own children have outgrown their teens, said she remembers thinking she could never work with young people. She attended the first of the CYO training sessions for the Northeast region in November of 1973 and described it as intensive and informative.

A few months later the group, which had organized into a youth committee, went on a Venture weekend at Silver Lake near Perry. Venture is another CYO retreat that provides an opportunity for youth to intensively search for the full dimension of what the Christian commitment to love one another actually entails. Mrs. Collins said that she is a firm believer in the weekends. "The youth come back filled with such enthusiasm and togetherness."

Last weekend the group went to Silver Lake for a CYO Search weekend. Search is designed to create a sense of Christian community among youth groups.

Rich Weider called St. Ambrose the center of regionalism among youth groups in the Northeast region. Cotterill said that the CYO take regionalism seriously as the only way feasible to provide programs and resources economically. St. Ambrose has attended picnics and participated in a bike pilgrimage with other groups last fall. St. Ambrose also has hosted the regional meetings every six weeks. "We have fantastic facilities," Mrs. Collins explained. The youth redecorated part of the rectory basement with barn wood for their coffeehouse, which is open on Saturday nights for teens to rap, play cards, listen to records, or shoot pool.

The St. Ambrose group has used youth development resources selectively. "You have to be flexible and do what the

young people want," Mrs. Collins said.

On their own, the group has organized the youth Mass, raised money for their activities through car washes, camped at Cayuga State Park this past summer, and conducted service projects. Among those projects was the Mulligan Stew concert held

recently outside the parish. Proceeds benefited Bolivian school children.

Father Schwab described the group as "open and full of possibilities." The youth development program has been "very, very helpful" in achieving the group's success, he said.

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**A Week's Supply of Daily Bread**

Daniel Ryan, a lay helper at the Trappist Monastery in Piffard, unloads bread that the monks bake for poor people. "This is the way the monks have chosen to help feed the poor," said Sister Angela Satula, pastoral assistant at St. Patrick's, Mt. Morris. On Thursdays, she delivers the loaves to the old folk on her list, and on Fridays, waits on "customers" at the convent, where this photo was taken. The free bread, provided each week out of the profits of commercial baking, is worth nearly \$10,000 a year, in terms of grocery store prices.

## USCC Will Fight 'Illegal Alien' Bill

The U.S. Catholic Conference has decided to oppose vigorously immigration legislation pending in Congress, calling it a scapegoat solution to economic ills. Known as the "Illegal alien" bill, H.R. 8713 would make it against the law for any employer to hire or continue to employ an alien who has not been properly certified by the government. According to Bishop James S. Rausch, staff members of the Catholic Conference will work with Senators and Representatives to defeat the proposed law.

A USCC statement prepared by Bishop Rausch claimed that the government, in attempting to solve the economic problems caused by the employment of illegal aliens ranging from 2 to 12 million in number, would "create a civil rights problem of horrendous magnitude." It is feared that employers, respon-

sible for the enforcement of the law, would hire fewer foreign workers to avoid breaking the law. Catholic advocacy is focused largely on those of Hispanic background.

The legislation is also opposed because it fails to provide full amnesty for those unregistered aliens now settled in the country. According to the USCC statement, amnesty provisions within the "Illegal Alien" bill would affect few. It charged that in prosperous times the Immigration Service has winked at the illegal entry of poor families seeking work, but has cracked down now because of the economic recession.

### RELIGIOUS 'ED

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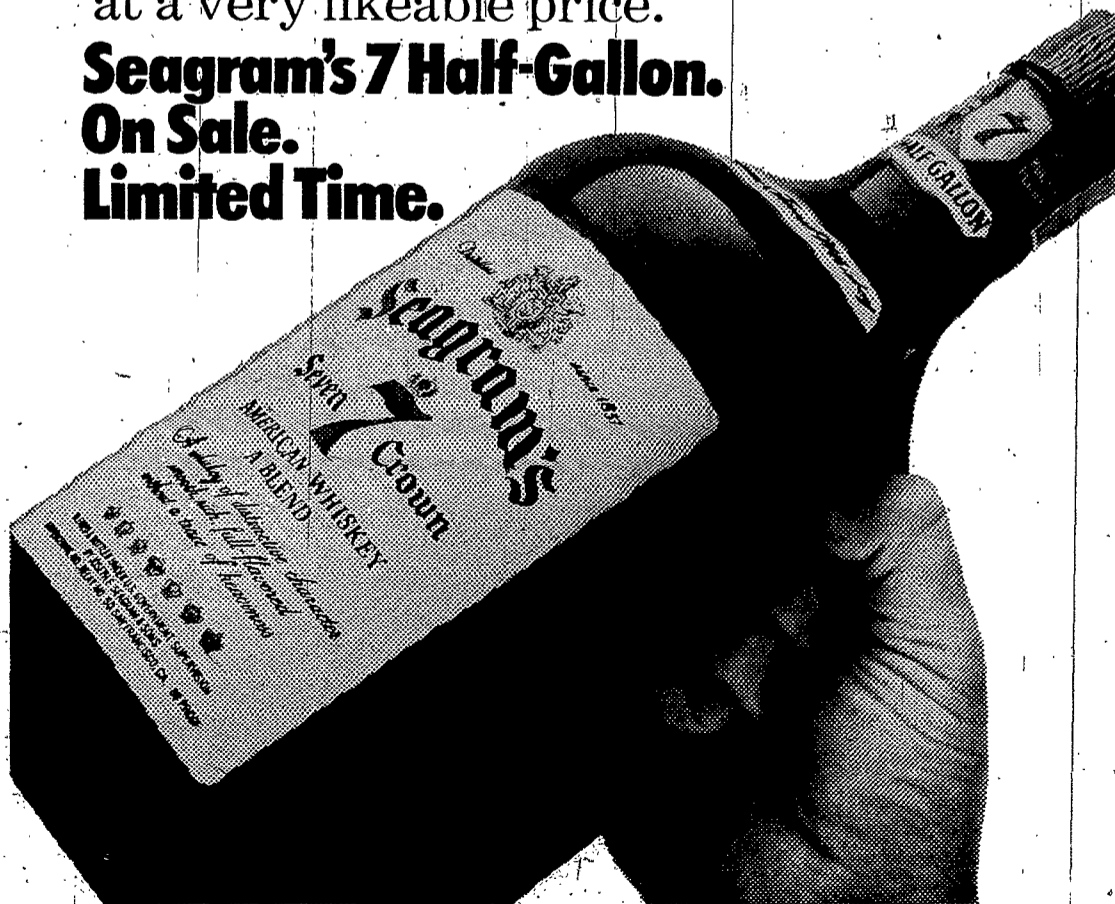
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