

dedication through the years . . .

The one outstanding thing some priests who are former counselors at Camp Stella Maris on Conesus Lake remarked on is the dedication of the staff.

The Courier-Journal asked the priests last week what, in their

opinion, was the greatest value of the camp for parents considering enrolling their children.

Almost to a man, they used the word "dedication" in speaking of the staff.



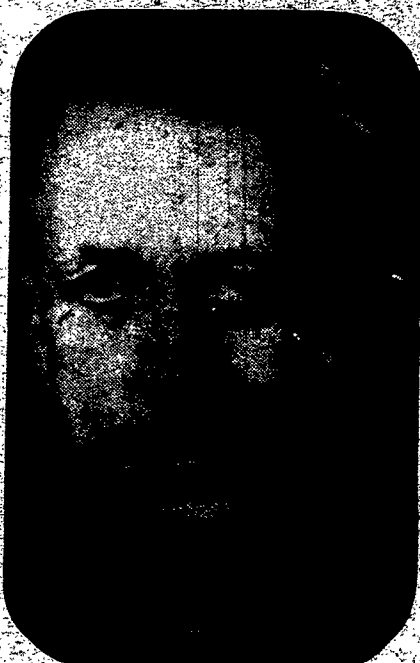
Father Leonard Kelly, retired pastor of Assumption Parish in Fairport, cited also the "reliance on the peer group under proper supervision." He explained that the children are away from home, they are in their own age groups and there they develop a sense of group spirit — under the leadership of dedicated adults.



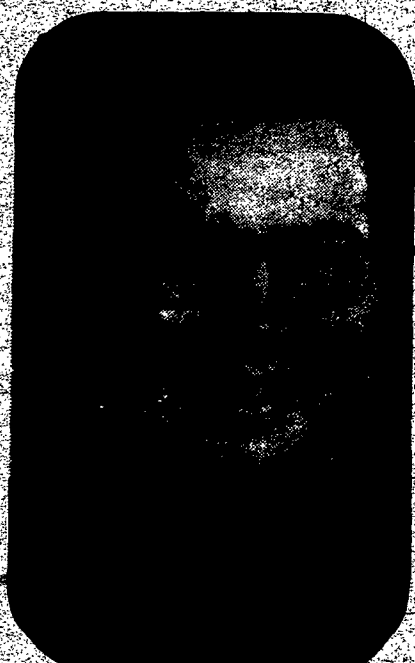
Father John Hempel, chaplain at St. Ann's Home and former rector of Becket Hall, called the dedication of the staff the "absolute" quality of the camp. He also said that as rector of Becket he knew the character of the men who are counselors and he praised them for their "real concern."



Father George Vogt, pastor emeritus of Good Shepherd Church, considers the "camaraderie, the friendship which developed between the seminarians and campers, that carried over into their adult lives" as the most outstanding feature the camp offers. He said every camp can provide food and water, but only Stella Maris offers this camaraderie.



Father Eugene McFarland, whose association with the camp extended over 22 years, said that "campers saw the making of a priest." The counselor seminarian, previously known only as a figure at the altar, could be seen engaging in athletic activity as "an all-round person." He said that on himself, this made a "tremendous impression."



Father Thomas Koesler, stationed at St. John the Evangelist in Greece, said "Any one associated with the camp could not help but be impressed or affected by the people involved." He cited the entire staff's dedication and concern for the children.



Father Peter Clifford, associated with Holy Ghost Parish in Coldwater, also cited the "tradition" of "zeal," "concern," and "dedication," carried down through the staffs, year after year. He said they "made a constant effort to give children a week of fun and enjoyment in a Christian atmosphere."



Father James Conner, associate at St. Charles Borromeo, said "I was always impressed with the staff." Being seminarians, rather than high school students, the counselors "had a degree of mature experience and wisdom," he noted. He said further that the "personal qualities" evident in the staff, "made the program run with greater effectiveness."