

# Special

## From I

began. I don't think I'll ever forget it.

The athletes would usually come as a team. People from Canada, Yugoslavia, Utah, Louisiana, Texas, North Dakota, Greece, California, Alaska, Hong Kong and the Virgin Islands all came together for meals.

They wore their uniforms, of course, and they came to us smiling and laughing, totally open and friendly.

Shortly after the man from Ohio introduced himself to my wife, a teenaged Olympian named Melissa read my nametag and said, "Good morning Michael, you look very tired." She was absolutely correct.

Melissa then got out of line, arms outstretched. I was about to receive the first of many hugs, a gesture that became symbolic of the Special Olympics.

During lunch the athletes returned, with a difference. Many of them now wore medals, many more wore ribbons and were unabashedly proud of them, as they should have been. Medals were given



Photo by Susan McKinney

A jubilant Raymond Morber poses with volunteer Missy Meissner for photographs after he successfully completed floor exercises in the Special Olympics.

out for first, second and third place finishes. Ribbons were given for places four through eight, everybody was a winner.

During Saturday's gymnastics competition in Brockport's Tuttle North Gym, we witnessed what became, for me, the real reason for the competition.

A male gymnast, severely retarded, was performing in

the men's free exercise. His big trick was a simple three point (head and both hands) handstand. He couldn't make it.

He tried three times until finally he was able to perform the trick. He then stood up hands raised, beaming. The

packed gym erupted as he threw himself into his chaperone's arms for the inevitable hug.

The Special Olympics oath, "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt," was never more evident.

# IFCA to Unveil Bishop's Memorial

The International Federation of Catholic Alumnae annual conference next month will hold special meaning for the Diocese of Rochester.

A highlight of that meeting, in Alexandria, Va., Sept. 14-16, will be the unveiling of a bronze plaque for the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Chair of Catholic School Education at Catholic University. The plaque has been inscribed to the memory of Rochester's late Bishop James E. Kearney. Sometime ago, Bishop

Joseph L. Hogan, former bishop of Rochester, endorsed the local circle in its fund drive for the chair. According to Miss Helen Durnin of the local IFCA, gifts are still being received for the memorial.

Sister Denise Ely, DC, president of the IFCA will preside over the unveiling.

Miss Durnin noted that a Rochester delegation is forming for the convention. Special hotel rates are available and she asked that persons interested in attending contact her at 473-7565.

## SENIOR CITIZENS' BERMUDA TOUR

Have you always wanted to see Bermuda? Well, here's your chance . . . Join our special tour for Senior Citizens departing Rochester via American Airlines, Thursday, November 8th and returning Monday, November 12th . . . Only \$394.00 plus tax from Rochester . . . Call for details and folders.

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## Vial of Life, Youth Programs Awarded

Programs concerning juvenile delinquency prevention, medical emergency, the drinking driver, airport security, jail disc jockeys and orientation of unsentenced inmates have won national and state awards for the Monroe County Sheriff's Department.

National awards were for the Sheriff's Tactical Accident Reduction (STAR) Unit, the Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Unit and the Vial for Life. Other projects won state awards.

Under STAR, deputies are assigned to traffic enforcement duty in areas where there has been a high incidence of accidents. The main objective is to get the drinking driver off the road.

The juvenile delinquency unit works to divert the troublesome teen from criminal acts toward a productive way of life. Selected youths were assigned to county programs for

counseling, mental health services, vocational training and recreation.

Vial of Life is a program which provides emergency services with pertinent medical data on the persons in need. The data is kept by participants in small plastic vials which are attached by rubber bands to home refrigerator racks. Vial of Life stickers are pasted on front entrances of participants' homes so that responding emergency services know immediately where they can obtain data which could save the stricken person's life.

Vial packages were distributed initially through the 15 McDonald's outlets as well as through city, county and town agencies.

The national honors were from the National Association of Counties Achievements Awards and the state prizes from the State Association of Counties Initiative in Management Awards.



## Surprise Visit

Bishop Matthew H. Clark obliges autograph seekers at Camp Stella Maris. Executive Camp Director Ray Tette, right, showed the unexpected guest around one beautiful day in July.

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