

Summer Camp:

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The camp's executive director, Ray Tette, said that the idea for seniors' programs has been brewing for some time. In previous work at St. Ann's Home and a housing project, and especially in dealing with his own mother and aunts, he realized the attraction camping could have for seniors as a secure place to enjoy the freedom of being outdoors. "The potential is tremendous — I'd like to see a summer-long program for them," he said, adding that his long-term goal is to make use of the camp year-round. Already the success of this initial experience has prompted the scheduling of several more sessions for seniors in September and October.

Although they signed on for a younger clientele, counselors got high marks from campers on their thoughtfulness and consideration. "The warmth of the staff makes this place," Malta said, adding that since her own children are grown, she has missed the crowds that used to flood her house and raid her refrigerator. For that reason, she especially appreciated the contact with young people.

Camp director Ray Tette calls that warmth "Camp Stella Maris magic," and attributes it to the pervasive Christianity of the place.

"The kids live Christian attitudes every day," he said, pointing out that while the words are easy to say, the reality is hard to achieve, particularly for young people.

Activities throughout the three days included crafts, softball, fishing and boat rides on the lake. Meals were served in the camp's main lodge beginning with breakfast at 7:45 a.m. and ending with dinner at 6 p.m., although a snack was always available. After breakfast, each morning, an aerobics

workout got the campers energized for the rest of the day's activity. Before dinner each day, the lodge was decorated for a theme cocktail party to enhance even the time spent relaxing and socializing.

On Wednesday, a workshop on "Using Medication Wisely" and a free blood pressure check were presented on an informational note. A group also traveled to the Berry Winery in Hemlock, and enjoyed a "Nite at the Races," gathering in the barn to bet with fake money on "horses" that doubled as counselors. A campfire and sing-a-long followed on the beach.

Thursday was equally packed with fun, starting with archery and sand casting first thing in the morning and continuing right up till leave-taking at 2 p.m.

Thanks to a flexible schedule and staff, the vacation was also rich in unscheduled, spontaneous moments. During one lull, Malta wrapped a gaily colored scarf around her head and became a gypsy fortuneteller, using only a deck of cards and her vivid imagination to foresee the future.

Besides just-plain fun, the camping experience does have the potential to make a difference in people's lives, Tette pointed out, which is one reason that after 12 years there, it still casts its spell over him.

Sixty-seven-year-old Phyllis Wilson proved him right. The Palmyra resident came to the camp alone on a whim. Since her husband died many years ago, her life has been a full one, with eight children to raise and work as a secretary at the Mobil Chemical plant. But now the kids are grown and, since retiring two years ago, she's found herself lonely on occasion.

"I guess it takes some time to come to terms with being a senior citizen," she mused, admitting that while she's often thought of joining one of the groups in her area, something was missing. Maybe it was the realization that growing older doesn't mean you can't still act a little like a kid sometimes. Whatever it was, she found it at Camp Stella Maris, because she left on Thursday with plenty of new friends, looking forward to the next senior's meeting.

For more information on this fall's planned senior camping programs, write or call Camp Stella Maris, 3052 East Lake Road, Livonia, N.Y., 14487, (716)346-2243 or 346-2251.

A Word for Sunday With Father Albert Shamon

Sunday's Readings: (R3) Mark 6:7-13; (R1) Amos 7:12-15; (R2) Ephesians 1:3-14.

Sunday's liturgy reveals once again the power of the word of God. God speaks to Amos, and Amos ups and goes from his sycamores and sheep. God-made-man summons the Twelve, and they abandon their nets and fish — just like that!

Amos was both a shepherd and a dresser of sycamores. The sycamore produced an insipid fruit related to the fig but smaller; it was the food of the poor. At a certain stage in its development, the dresser had to puncture the fruit so that it would grow large and become edible.

Amos was minding his own business, doing his work, when all of a sudden God called him. (God so often calls man while he is doing what he ought.) "Go, prophesy to my people Israel," God said. And Amos upped and went.

Amos lived in Judah. God called him to prophesy in Israel. Civil war after the death of Solomon had split the kingdom of David in two: Israel, the northern kingdom of 10 tribes; and Judah, the southern one of two tribes. To prevent their subjects from going to Jerusalem and thus weakening their political loyalty, the northern kings had built shrines at Bethel and Dan.

At these sanctuaries, brotherhoods of prophets began to flourish. Their job was to offer political and religious advice to the king. These "prophets" were in reality time-serving professionals whose chief interest was their fees.

When Amos came to Bethel and denounced the crimes of the kingdom, he incurred the ire of the priest at Bethel, a sycophant named Amaziah. Judging Amos to be like himself, a prophet for gain, he told him in no uncertain terms to go poaching elsewhere. Amos fiercely retorted that he belonged to no brotherhood of prophets. "God called

me," he thundered. "The Lord ... said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

Israel turned a deaf ear to Amos. So, hardly had he shaken its dust from his feet than Israel succumbed to Assyria (721 B.C.). History refers to the northern kingdom as "the 10 lost tribes."

The gospel story parallels the Amos incident and contrasts with it. Again, it is God who calls, but this time not one, but 12 men. He sends them also to Israel, not alone, but two-by-two to support one another. He instructs them to take nothing, to travel light — for His work will brook no delay and its success depends on only one thing: faith! Like Amos, they go without protest. Despite their words and works, they, too, are rejected by some.

Down through the centuries, God calls others: a Francis of Assisi, a Dominic, an Ignatius, Elizabeth Ann Seton, Mother Cabrini. We all take pride and glory in the faith and witness of such as these. We long for such lights to appear in our own times. Yet we seldom dream we are called to be one of these. We were baptized to be "leaven" in the world — agents of change, working within, unseen, but powerful enough to change conditions and attitudes around us.

Apparent success or failure is not what matters. Amos failed. The Twelve knew rejection. But both succeeded, because they were what God meant them to be and to do what He had called them to do.

When Bernard Baruch celebrated his 94th birthday, reporters asked him who he thought to be the greatest person of the century. Reporters strained forward to catch the name of someone eminent or mighty.

"The fellow," Baruch said, "that does his job every day." Success is not in the achievement, but in the being and doing what God means each to be and to do!

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General

Card of Thanks
MANY THANKS to the Sacred Heart, St. Jude for favors received. M.L.K.

ST. JUDE Theodora, you truly answered my prayers. I am eternally grateful. T.T.

THANK YOU St. Jude, St. Theresa ("the little flower"), for favors received. M.H.A.

THANK YOU St. Jude, Sacred Heart of Jesus for favors gratefully received.

THANK YOU St. Anne, Holy Spirit, St. Anthony, St. Jude, Our Lady, St. Theresa for prayers answered. A.H.

THANK YOU Holy Spirit, Saint Jude, Saint Anthony, Sacred Heart for favors received. M.A.

THANK YOU St. Jude for favors received. C.G.

THANK YOU St. Jude for favors received. L.R.C.

THANK YOU Jesus, Mary, Joseph, St. Anthony, St. Jude for prayers answered. D.S.

THANKS to St. Jude for prayers answered. E.M.C.

THANKS to Sacred Heart and St. Jude for all favors received. P.V.

THANKS to Sacred Heart, St. Jude, Blessed Mother, St. Theresa, St. Ann for favors received. F.A.M.&F.T.M.

THANKS to the Sacred Heart, St. Jude, Blessed Mother, St. Theresa and St. Anne for favor received. P.M.H./N.H.

THANKS to Jesus, St. Jude and all Saints for favors received. K.A.G.

THANKS to Our Blessed Mother, St. Jude, St. Anthony for favors received. M.P.K.

THANKS to the Holy Spirit, Sacred Heart of Jesus and Holy Family for prayers answered. J.T.L.

thank you for all things, and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you even in and in spite of all material blessings. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Amen. The person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days the favor requested will be granted, even if it seems difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted without mentioning the favor. P.F.Z.

HOLY SPIRIT, You who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can obtain my goals, you who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and in all instances of my life you are with me. I want, in this short prayer, to thank you for all things, and to confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you even in and in spite of all material blessings. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. Amen. The person must say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. After 3 days the favor requested will be granted, even if it seems difficult. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted without mentioning the favor. V.K.

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