

Students cover many miles to attend school

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Jennifer Agustin didn't wait until reaching college to go away to school.

Only 15 years old, Agustin has already made hundreds of trips up and down Interstate 390 from her hometown of Dansville to attend high school at Our Lady of Mercy High School, 1437 Blossom Road, Rochester.

The extensive 45-mile trip takes almost an hour each way. Agustin gets to Mercy everyday thanks to a driver hired by her father, Dr. Benjamin Agustin. She is accompanied on the trek by Mercy seventh-grader Cristina Sustento, who also lives in Dansville.

Agustin and Sustento travel the farthest out of the 39 Mercy students who live outside of Monroe County. The sophomore admits that her fellow students often ask her why she would want to travel so far to attend school.

"I just explain to them that there really aren't Catholic schools in the Dansville area. There's only one, and it's an elementary school," said Agustin, whose three sisters graduated from Mercy.

In addition to Agustin and Sustento, Mercy draws girls from Honeoye Falls, Newark and Avon.

At Nazareth Academy, 1001 Lake Ave., Rochester, 60 percent of the enrollment is comprised of Rochester residents but there are students who come from as far away as Brockport, Scottsville and Churchville.

A few blocks from Nazareth, Aquinas Institute, 1127 Dewey Ave., schools teens from such areas as Ontario, Williamson, Mumford and Avon.

Bishop Kearney, 125 Kings Highway S., Rochester, draws Wayne County pupils from the east: 17 from Ontario, four from Williamson and two from Sodus. And to the west, students journey to Kearney from as far away as Brockport, Churchville and Bergen.

McQuaid Jesuit, 1800 Clinton Ave. S., Rochester, has 65 boys (about 9 percent of the student body) from other counties than Monroe. They come from places such as Mt. Morris, Le Roy, Waterloo, Avon and Canandaigua.

"Single-sex, academic reputation and athletics" are some of McQuaid's chief attractions, according to Joe Marchese, assistant principal and director of admissions as well as head varsity basketball coach.

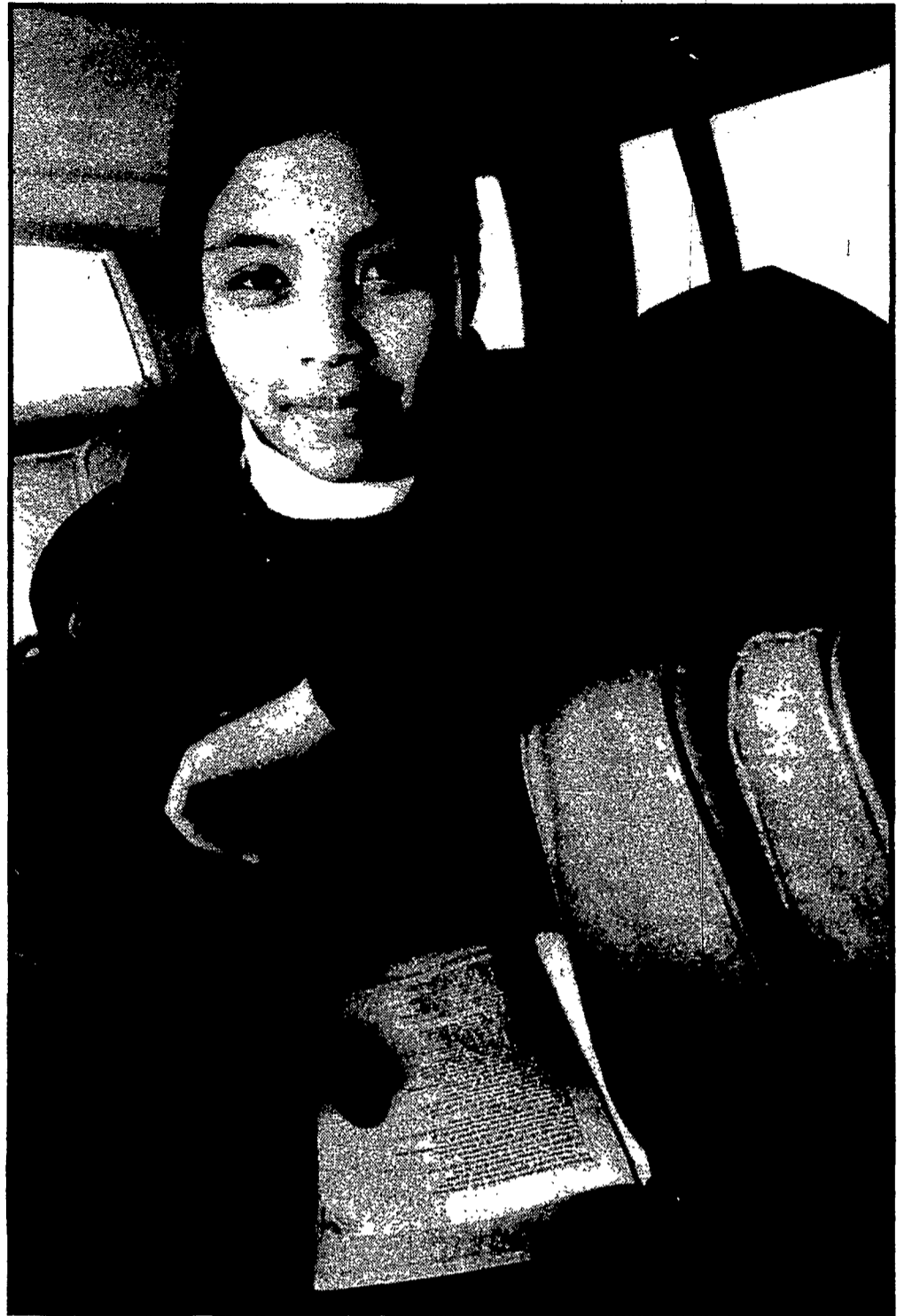
DeSales High School, 90 Pulteney St., Geneva, has dozens of students traveling several miles down Route 14 or Routes 5 and 20. Only 70 of the school's 144 students are from Geneva.

Among the towns and villages represented at DeSales are Waterloo, Penn Yan, Auburn, Palmyra, Macedon, Phelps, Shortsville, Canandaigua, Lyons, Newark, Clyde, Marion, Clifton Springs and Seneca Falls.

At Elmira Notre Dame High School, 1400 Maple Ave., students come from five different counties in New York and Pennsylvania.

Tina Kamas, director of recruitment and public relations at Notre Dame, noted that the school's high academic reputation is ND's main appeal to students and parents.

"Of the 71 people in our 1991 graduating class, 67 went on to college and the other four entered the military," Kamas said.



Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor
Jennifer Agustin, a sophomore at Our Lady of Mercy High School, makes good use of the nearly two hours she spends traveling to and from school by catching up on homework.

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Aquinas, Geneva DeSales hosting bottle and can drives

Aquinas Institute and Geneva DeSales High School will sponsor bottle-and-can drives in the upcoming weeks.

The Aquinas drive is set for Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 1-2, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school parking lot, 1127 Dewey Ave., Rochester. Proceeds will help fund the Aquinas Band and Color Guard's spring trip to Hershey Park, Pa., where they will perform.

DeSales will host its drive on Saturday, Feb. 8, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Pulteney and High Street entrances to the school.

Other arrangements can be made for those who cannot bring their bottles and cans to the schools on these dates. Call 716/254-2020 for information on the Aquinas drive. For details on the drive at DeSales, call 315/789-5111.

Writing contest open to Rochester students of all ages

ROCHESTER — WXXI (Channel 21, Cable Channel 4) and the Charlotte-Lake Ontario Kiwanis are sponsoring a writing contest for students in the Rochester area.

The theme of the contest, titled Kids Who Write Are Bright, is "If I Ran a School." The competition is open to Rochester-area students in grades

K-12. Prizes will be awarded in five age groups (K-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-8 and 9-12). Essays must be 500 words or less.

Entry forms may be obtained through school principal offices. The deadline for entry is March 2. Winners are selected by a team of judges chosen by WXXI, and will be notified by April 15.

Stella Maris plans weeklong skiing camp in February

LIVONIA — Downhill skiing at Swain Ski Center will highlight Camp Stella Maris' annual Winter Camp, scheduled for Feb. 16-21.

The program is designed for students ages 11-16. Participants will be housed at Camp Stella Maris and travel to and from Swain. In addition to skiing, campers will take part in various other activities.

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Cost of the program is \$208 or \$251 for those who need to rent equipment (discounts apply to Swain season-pass holders). The fee includes room, board and lift tickets.

To register, contact Camp Stella Maris at 716/346-2243.

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