

YOUTH BRIEFS



DeSales High School plans annual spring picnic, Mass

GENEVA — DeSales High School, 90 Pulteney St., will hold its third annual spring Mass and picnic on Sunday, June 7.

Father Paul Bonacci will celebrate the Mass, scheduled for 3 p.m. in the school's gym. The Waterloo native currently serves as parochial vicar at Fairport's Church of the Assumption.

A dish-to-pass picnic will follow. All students, parents, staff, alumni and school supporters are welcome.

Contact Sister Jacqueline Robinson at 315/789-5111 (days) or Kathy Peters at 539-8006 (evenings) for information.

Nazareth to hold sign-up for July tutorial program

ROCHESTER — Registration for a summer tutorial program, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph, will take place on Wednesday, June 10, at Nazareth Academy, 1001 Lake Ave.

Registration is scheduled for 3 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. This program, which is scheduled to run three weeks from July 6-24, will concentrate on math, reading and language arts for students in grades 1-8.

Cost for the program is \$130. Contact Sister Francesca Tundo, SSJ, at 716/621-1714 for information.

Applications available for Rotary Sunshine Camp

RUSH — Applications are currently being accepted at the Sunshine Camp for Physically Challenged Children, located at 809 Five Points Road.

The free camp is open to youths with various illnesses — such as asthma, cerebral palsy, diabetes, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis and epilepsy — or who may have been injured in accidents.

Parents or guardians may write or call the camp at 716/533-2080.

Volunteers are needed for Camp Open Arms

PENFIELD — Camp Open Arms is seeking volunteers for this summer.

The 11th annual camp, located at Cobbles Elementary School, 140 Gebhardt Road, will run July 6-17. Sponsored by Cancer Action, Inc., the program serves children ages 3-15 who have cancer or other related blood diseases.

Call Cancer Action at 716/423-9700 for a volunteer application form.

Camp Stella Maris plans open house for June 7

LIVONIA — Camp Stella Maris, 3052 E. Lake Road, will host an open house Sunday, June 7, from 1 to 4:30 p.m.

The day's activities will begin with a dedication of the camp's "Spiritual Wall" in memory of former camper Casey Mullen.

For information about the open house or other camp programs, contact the camp office at 716/346-2243.



Myra Hill (left) rehearses with two members of the youth folk group — Jennifer Leibeck (center) and Mary Beth Zyla — before noon Mass at St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport May 31.

Babette G. Augustin/Photo editor

Folk group offers teen fulfillment

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

SPENCERPORT — Many intellectually gifted people find it difficult — sometimes impossible — to let their hearts guide them as often as their heads.

Not so with Myra Hill.

The Spencerport High School student is an A-plus student and will be valedictorian at her June 26 graduation. Yet along with her studies, Hill sets aside time to spend with her peers.

She especially enjoys participating in her youth folk group, which performs at noon Mass on Sundays at St. John the Evangelist Church, 60 Martha St.

Hill has sung in the 15-member group for the last four years and is now one of its veterans. She has only missed one performance in all that time, according to group co-leader Marj Smith. That one absence occurred after Hill had her wisdom teeth pulled, yet she still came to Mass that day and sat in the front pew.

"Her spunkiness gets the rest of the group going. She's always up and enthusiastic," Smith said.

"She's a very respectful person," added Amy Bozek, the other co-leader. "I guess you could say she's sensitive to others because we have a wide variety of people in the group and she's friendly with all of them. The kids look up to her."

Hill was recently honored for her involvement at St. John's when she



Hill has sung in the 15-member group for four years.

was named recipient of a Hands of Christ Award, given to high school seniors in the Diocese of Rochester who have excelled in ministry to the church and to others.

Hill said the Hands of Christ Award was especially meaningful because it was based on something other than academic accomplishments.

"It's one of the awards I'm most proud of because it was something I didn't try to go out and win, but someone felt I was deserving of it,"

said Hill.

Participating in the folk group has helped Hill grow in her faith. "When I was younger, I just sang because I was supposed to," she recalled. "But then I began to pay attention to the words I was singing. That made folk group a lot more important and a lot more fulfilling."

At times, Hill's relationship with fellow folk group members goes beyond music, Smith noted.

"Almost every week she's coming up with a theological question of some sort, like what about the people who don't believe in Jesus Christ — do they go to heaven? So we're supposed to be practicing, but then we get these discussions going," Smith said laughingly.

"She's real inquisitive. She wants to know all she can," Bozek added.

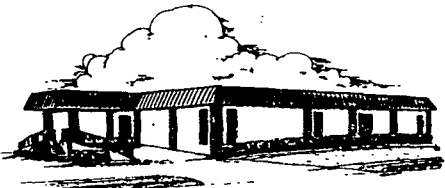
In addition to her activities at St. John's, Hill is a first chair clarinet player with the Spencerport High band. She also competes in girls' track (in the shot put event) at Spencerport, is president of the Varsity Club and has been involved in Student Government.

Hill will attend Williams College in Williamstown, Mass., this September. She is considering a career either as a musician or a writer.

When asked what words of wisdom she would pass along to other busy teens, Hill stressed the importance of balancing work and fun.

"Plan time to relax," she advised. "Give yourself a break."

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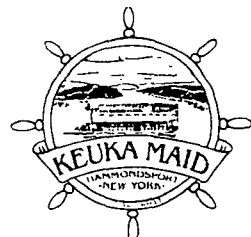
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