

Diocese begins plans for youths to see pope

World Youth Day features address by Holy Father

By Mike Latona
Staff writer

Although many teenagers and young adults in the Rochester diocese have never traveled as far as Denver, Colo., they'll consider the trip a hop, skip and a jump because of the person they will see next August.

Pope John Paul II.

And, at this point, it appears that at least one youth from every diocesan parish will have the chance to view the pope during World Youth Day.

Scheduled for Aug. 11-15, 1993, World Youth Day will mark the first time the event has ever been held in the United States. Since the pope established World Youth Day in 1984, the biennial international celebration has been held in Rome, 1985; Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1987; Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 1989; and Czestochowa, Poland, 1991.

Nearly one million youths and young adults from around the world are expected to descend on Denver. In preparation for World Youth Day, U.S. Catholic bishops have called for a year of outreach and evangelization.

The five-day gathering will kick off with an opening Mass and ceremony on Wednesday, Aug. 11. Scheduled activities for Aug. 12-14 will include music, prayer, workshops, discussions and social activities.

Highlighting the convocation will be the pope's vigil service on Aug. 14, and his celebration of Mass the following day.

Because next year's World Youth Day is taking place close to home — compared to previous years — Michael Theisen, diocesan youth ministry coordinator, is placing a high priority on getting a large number of youths to participate.

"The key is that we want total parish participation," said Theisen. "This

is a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I just think we're on a breakthrough with youth in this diocese and around the country, and I think World Youth Day is the element that will raise us up."

Approved by Bishop Matthew H. Clark earlier this month, Theisen's plan calls for one youth member from each parish to travel to Denver. Informational packets will be sent out to all parishes Oct. 15, and representatives will be selected by Nov. 15.

Parishes will be asked to help fund the \$600 expense for travel, food and lodging. Theisen noted that the diocese will offer financial assistance in extreme cases of need.

"I'm figuring on a total delegation of about 200 people — about 150 youth delegates, 25 chaperones, and 25 other spaces at-large," said Theisen.

One likely traveler will be Bishop Clark himself, according to Theisen. "I'm very pleased with the bishop's response. He became very interested in this, and plans on staying with us in dorms the whole time."

At least one diocesan parish is attempting to send more than one member to World Youth Day. The youth group at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 185 Clark St., Auburn, plans on sending five members west next August.

"To see the pope — you don't get many chances to see him. It's the closest I'd ever come," said Glynis LeGrett, a 17-year-old senior at Auburn High School.

Barbara Palmer, who serves as youth coordinator at St. Francis of Assisi Church, noted that World Youth Day will be a monumental event not only because of the pope's presence, but also because it serves as a vehicle for youths from many lands to share their faith.

"Kids in the United States often feel that Catholicism is something that's not real. But to see kids from other countries, they'll know what 'one holy, Catholic apostolic church' really means," said Palmer, whose group plans to offset expenses through a series of upcoming fundraising activities.



James Baca/Courtesy of the Denver Catholic Register
(From left) John Wanczyk, Jose David Corral, Karen Knickerbocker and Doug Rucker, all of Colorado, recently walked along the 13-mile pilgrimage that an estimated 100,000 young people might take during next summer's World Youth Day. The youths walked from Denver's Civic Center Park to Cherry Creek Reservoir.

Peace Child Chorus plans tryouts at church Sept. 17

ROCHESTER — Auditions for the Rochester Peace Child Chorus are scheduled for Thursday, Sept. 17, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at the Baptist Temple Church, 1101 Clover St.

These tryouts are open to youths, ages 8 to 18, who should arrive with a short song prepared. Performers of all ethnic backgrounds are urged to participate.

Rochester Peace Child Chorus is sponsored by Creative Response/Rochester, which promotes cross-cultural understanding through the arts. As members of Creative Response, chorus members will also have the opportunity to participate in weekly workshops and activities.

For details on the audition, call Cheryl Valvano at 716/293-3061.

Magazine drive will run through Sept. 30 at Kearney

IRONDEQUOIT — Bishop Kearney High School, 125 Kings Highway S., is sponsoring its annual magazine drive through Sept. 30.

All proceeds will benefit BK's educational programs. Each person mak-

ing a purchase is automatically entered for a chance to win a vacation package for four to Toronto. The drawing will take place Oct. 15.

For information about the drive, call 716/342-4000.

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