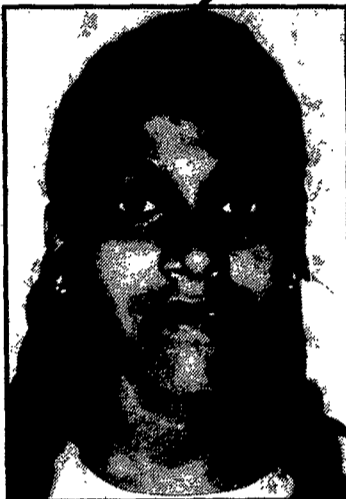
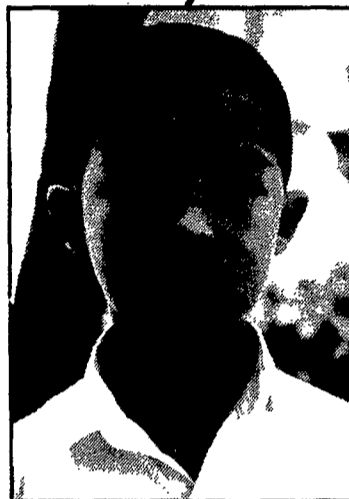


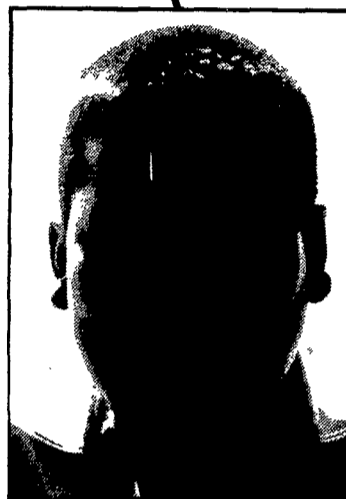
**Pamela Garces Esquibeth**  
Colombia



**Aproj Khan**  
India



**Anucha Mallmart**  
Thailand



**Worawat Kirdraynu**  
Thailand

## Youths look beyond school's walls

### St. Mary's helps children abroad

By Mike Latona  
Staff writer

**WATERLOO** — Here's a social studies project that goes well beyond the typical textbook approach.

For the past six years, students at St. Mary's School, 35 Center St., have been learning about the lifestyles of children from foreign lands.

What's also fairly foreign to the Waterloo youths is the poverty these young folks from overseas must face every day.

Aproj Khan, a 15-year-old girl from India, has lived in a one-room hut with the rest of her family in Calcutta.

Pamela Garces Esquibeth, a 5-year-old girl from Cartagena, Colombia, has resided in a two-room house with her parents, grandmother and two uncles.

Worawat Kirdraynu, a boy from Bangkok, Thailand, has shared a one-room house with four family members, sleeping on mats and eating on the floor. And when he turned 12 earlier this year, government regulations required Kirdraynu to go to work as if he were an adult.

"It's a very sad thought that this has to exist," said Kathy Peters, a kindergarten instructor at St. Mary's.

To help make life a little better for these children, the St. Mary's student body participates in an ongoing "adoption" project through Children's International.

Each month, funds are collected from the 201 St. Mary's students in grades kindergarten through 8. The money is then sent overseas to the sponsored children.

Students raise money by dropping donations into containers scattered throughout the school.

"Many of them have change left over from lunch, and they put the money in a jar in the cafeteria," noted Sister Brian Madigan, SSJ, St. Mary's principal.

"This is a very good group in regard to understanding about the lives these other children lead," added Sister Madigan.

"We explain what the children go without. It's like a school lesson, but a little more personal," commented Peters, who serves as the project's coordinator.

Bonnie Lewis, a St. Mary's eighth-grader who will graduate on June 23, has, by now, become quite familiar with these youths' various predicaments.

"They don't have enough food; they can't go to school; they don't have doctors to help them," said Lewis. "We want to help these guys so they can live more of a life like we do."

According to Peters, each sponsored child receives \$14 per month throughout the calendar year, as well as additional gifts of \$25 on Christmas, Easter and birthdays.

Khan and Esquibeth are two of three youths currently being supported by St. Mary's. The school also recently added a third child, Anucha Mallmart, a boy from Thailand.

Mallmart replaces Kirdraynu, who had been one of the two original "adoptees," along with Gina Betancour from Colombia, when St. Mary's began this project in 1987.

Kirdraynu is no longer being sponsored due to government regulations

that don't allow children to receive this type of support after they complete sixth grade. Betancour, meanwhile, received assistance up until last year.

Along with the monetary donations, St. Mary's sponsors have enclosed a school yearbook each of the last two years. The students also receive feedback from their foreign friends, who occasionally enclose photographs and letters written in their native languages. The letters are translated by Children's International case workers.

Sister Madigan noted that this type of support helps bring the St. Mary's students' awareness more to the forefront.

"One thing I like is that the (St. Mary's) children have an idea of who the child is; it's not vague. It's real, because they can see the faces," Sister Madigan said.

### Bishop Kearney to offer driver's education course

**IRONDEQUOIT** — Bishop Kearney High School, 125 Kings Hwy. S., is offering a driver's education course this summer.

The program, which will run from July 2-Aug. 13, is available to students 16 years of age or older, and who will have obtained a New York state driver's license or permit by July 2.

In-person registration will be accepted at the high school through June 25 on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost is \$210 for Kearney students and \$225 for all others. Each applicant's license or permit must be brought to registration.

For further details, call Judy Crosby at 716/342-4000.

### Bishop will speak in Elmira

**ELMIRA** — Bishop Matthew H. Clark will be the guest speaker at a Boy Scouts of America benefit dinner on Monday, June 21.

Sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America's Five Rivers Council, the dinner will be held at the downtown Holiday Inn, 1 Holiday Plaza.

Also highlighting the evening will be the presentation of the council's 1993 Distinguished Citizen Award to John T. Gough, a businessman from Horseheads who has been active in community affairs.

To obtain tickets for the dinner, call 607/776-3861.

### Ithaca group to host party

**ITHACA** — Immaculate Conception Church, 113 N. Geneva St., has organized a kickoff party on Friday, June 18, for its newly formed middle school youth group.

The party will take place at the YMCA on Graham Road West in Lansing. Activities from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. will include swimming and volleyball.

All middle school-aged parishioners from Immaculate Conception are encouraged to attend. Friends are welcome as well.

Call 607/277-3558 for details.

### Scouting retreat scheduled

The Catholic Committee on Scouting is seeking young people for its annual diocesan retreat, to be held in the Finger Lakes area in late September.

Girl Scouts, Webelos Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Explorers are invited to attend this ecumenical event. It is not required that these groups have Roman Catholic church affiliations.

For details, call John Lenhard at 716/266-5372.

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