

# Interest in World Youth Day reaches peak level

## Colorado event to draw 150,000

ROCHESTER — Although World Youth Day '93 organizers had anticipated substantial attendance figures all along, their original estimates are still proving to be too low.

As a result, the U.S. Catholic bishops added \$2 million to the World Youth Day budget during their June 17-19 spring meeting in New Orleans, La. They overwhelmingly decided to commit the additional funds from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops-U.S. Catholic Conference reserves as a line of credit to assure adequate funding for the event.

This international Catholic youth celebration will be held Aug. 11-15 in Denver, Colo. Highlighting World Youth Day will be a scheduled visit by Pope John Paul II.

According to Archbishop William H. Keeler of the Diocese of Baltimore, Md., who serves as NCCB president and head of its ad hoc committee on World Youth Day, current registration for the event is 150,000.

That figure is more than double the 60,000 projected a year ago when the nation's bishops approved an initial budget of \$4.5 million.

Similarly, the Diocese of Rochester's youth ministry coordinator has seen World Youth Day preparation reach unexpected levels.

"This is a bigger job than anyone anticipated, and we're finding that out day by day — logistically, financially and numerically," said Michael Theisen. "It's taken up 25 to 30 percent of my job this year. No one knew what it would be like, because we've never done this before."

Theisen noted that he had originally expected approximately 200 people from the diocese to travel to Denver. Now the diocesan contingent has swelled to 500, with an additional 100 to 150 from this area traveling separately. The ratio of youths to adults is about six to one, Theisen noted.

World Youth Day, begun in 1985, is held every two years. This will mark the event's first-ever occurrence in the United States.

— Mike Latona

This story contains some information from Catholic News Service.



Pope John Paul II, shown here outside St. Peter's Square in Rome, is scheduled to visit Denver for World Youth Day '93. The international Catholic youth celebration will be held Aug. 11-15.

## Teen employs poetry to attack abortion

BROCKPORT — Brian Washburn normally isn't vociferous with his abortion views.

However, after three of his acquaintances chose to have abortions within the past year, the 17-year-old Washburn thought it was time to let his feelings be known.

"Ever since I found out what an abortion is, I've been against it. Then (the issue) really started to come into light this year," said Washburn, a parishioner at Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 152 Main St.

"It's one of those things where you say, 'It wouldn't happen to anyone I know.' All of a sudden, it's happening right around the corner," he added.

Washburn, who graduated from Brockport High School last month, composed the following poem, titled "Choose," for his English class this past winter:

*What reason did you choose death over life*

*Did it ever do any harm to you*  
*You claim it would have caused your family strife*

*Not to a relative a word you blew*  
*I couldn't handle keeping it you say*

*Then hand it to someone that would love it*

*You show too much grief to give it away*

*You had other choices never forget*  
*Although it is not up to me to judge*

*There are many that are higher than I*

*Pray that the highest will not hold a grudge*

*It is up to He after you die*

*For it is at that moment you may find*

*The unborn child you left behind.*

The poem was displayed on his classroom wall at Brockport. Although Washburn said he didn't encounter severely negative feedback from classmates, he believes that "people talk about abortion like it's a common, everyday happening ... a lot of the class accepts abortion."

Washburn, a three-year student council member at Brockport, will attend George Washington University in Washington, D.C., this fall. He plans on majoring in criminal justice.

— Mike Latona

## Registration still open at Camp Stella Maris

LIVONIA — Camp Stella Maris, located on Conesus Lake, is still accepting applications for its day camp.

The camp will run from July 5-Aug. 27. Bus and van transportation will be made available from Marketplace Mall in Henrietta, with the vehicles making pickups between 7:45 and 8:15 a.m. and returning to the mall between 5:30 and 6 p.m. each day.

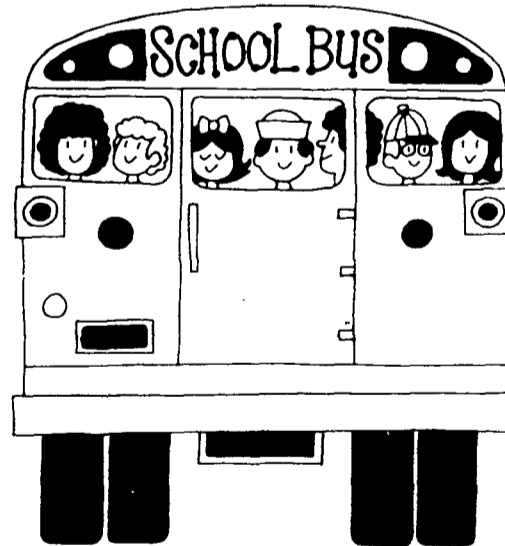
For information on registration and/or transportation, call 716/346-2243.

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